

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

INGRID PITT, FIRST
QUEEN OF VAMPIRES



MEDIA+

NEW LABOUR, NEW
JEREMY PAXMAN



24 PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT

ENGLAND'S ASHES
TURN TO DUST



Gillian Baverstock, elder daughter of Enid Blyton, with her mother's most famous creation, Noddy, during celebrations in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, marking today's centenary of the birth of the author. Famous Five a burden, page 2
Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Free places plan to stem college rush

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

School leavers facing university fees because they arranged a year off will still go for free, providing they can prove that they plan to do voluntary work before starting their course.

However, the concession, signalled yesterday by ministers following predictions that many students would try to cancel gap year plans to avoid debts of as much as £10,500, may be too little too late, university admissions officials warned.

There were concerns that the fee waiver, a one-off scheme intended to ease a predicted scramble this week for the last unfilled university places, will do nothing to help the tens of thousands of school-leavers who had planned to apply to university during a year off, rather than gaining a place and deferring it.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is also worried that details of the concession, to be announced after A-level results are published on Thursday, will come too late to help students unsure if they qualify.

The deal to be offered by the Government will be open only to students who have already been formally offered a university place deferred for entry in 1998. Following the announcement last month of moves to scrap student grants and introduce means-tested tuition fees from 1998, admissions leaders have warned of a potential dash for the last free places as those in the "gap trap" scrap their year-off plans.

The Department for Education and Employment yesterday said charges would be waived for "students who have made a commitment to helping charities and have got a guaranteed place in 1998". Students must prove they are to do a minimum of three months' voluntary work at

home or overseas with an approved organisation such as The Prince's Trust or Voluntary Service Overseas.

Of the 19,048 students with deferred places this year, around 10,000 might be expected to qualify, officials suggested.

However, it remained unclear last night whether students must have already formally arranged a voluntary placement in order to take advantage of the deal, or whether they need

scramble, with figures published by UCAS showing a 38 per cent increase compared with last year in applications to its clearing system, which matches applicants to unfilled places.

Last Thursday, Baroness Blackstone, the education and employment minister, accused UCAS and the National Union of Students of "irresponsible scaremongering".

The UCAS chief executive, Tony Higgins, yesterday expressed reservations over the fees waiver. It would do nothing to bail out the 70,000 students who normally apply or reapply to university in a gap year after their A-level results, he said. It was a matter of "happenstance" for many whether they secured a deferred place or applied after qualifying, and in many cases delay helped students choose a more suitable course.

Students and their parents would also want to see the "small print" of the waiver deal, Mr Higgins said, yet they would need to move swiftly to find an alternative university place if they opted to cancel a gap year.

Others would face problems fitting in voluntary work because their future university had advised them to find work connected with their course.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the decision "to protect the position of students who will be undertaking a gap year between leaving school or college and going on to university".

He added: "Heads of schools who have advised their students that it would be valuable to undertake a gap year did not wish to see those students penalised by the proposed changes in the funding of tuition fees which come into effect from September 1998. The Government has made the only sensible and fair decision which it could have made in order to keep faith with students doing a gap year."

UCAS

The Independent will be the only newspaper to carry the full official UCAS listings of university and college vacancies when the A-level results come out on Thursday. Order your copy now

Russians target British sex trade

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

Foreign women are being smuggled into Britain to work as prostitutes in growing numbers by criminal gangs, including the Russian Mafia and Chinese Triads, one of the country's most experienced vice officers has revealed.

Police believe that gangsters are attempting to expand and take over parts of this country's multi-million pound sex industry. They have sent evidence to the Home Office and urged them to help co-ordinate action to tackle the growing problem. The report, by Scotland Yard's Crime and Vice Unit, warns that the trafficking in foreign prostitutes has almost certainly spread to most cities and is threatening to "grow into a major criminal activity".

Most worryingly, the unit has evidence that organised



criminals from the Eastern Bloc and Hong Kong have been bringing over women to work in brothels and escort agencies. It is also understood that M15 has uncovered evidence of members of the Russian Mafia moving into Britain's vice world

while investigating other forms of organised crime.

The underworld members and crooked "businessmen" are particularly interested in prostitutes working in escort agencies, brothels and saunas, which are highly profitable.

In one case a Brazilian man brought in about 100 women from his home country over a five-year period and forced them to work in two London based escort agencies. The women charged a minimum of £250 for one and a half hours, but received only a tiny amount of the money. This one operation is believed to have netted the pimp £5m.

Evidence has been found to show that Triad gangs from Hong Kong have run brothels in London. Manchester, Dublin, and Glasgow and detectives believe they exist in most cities with a large Chinese community. They found that women were being moved

around the country and were treated virtually as slaves.

The Metropolitan Police's vice unit, which covers the country's largest concentration of prostitutes, prepared a report, "Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation" for chief constables and the Home Office.

The author of the report, Inspector Theo Dawson, the former head of the vice unit, now head of the gaming section and organiser of the National Vice Conference, said: "The trafficking of prostitutes from abroad is on the increase. I don't think we appreciate the scale of the problem." His report said the Triads "continue to open up new brothels and bring females into the UK with considerable ease".

Until now, despite warnings, there has been very little evidence of criminals from the old Soviet bloc moving into Britain. However, vice officers have found direct links between Russ-

ian prostitutes working in London and high ranking eastern European criminals. One pimp told the police that he wanted to be the "vice king of Soho".

Insp Dawson said: "We have intelligence to suggest that East European organised crime is infiltrating and developing prostitution in this country. They have identified that there does not appear to be any home-grown crime organisation controlling prostitution... Given the Mafia's propensity for violence it will be easy to them to scare off any opposition."

His report concludes: "Trafficking in prostitution is a problem which if not tackled will grow into a major criminal activity and undoubtedly bring with it other serious criminal offences... What is of most concern, and here there are parallels to the drugs industry, is that what we uncover is likely to be just the tip of the iceberg."

Great day for coming a sporting second

Louis Jabb
and agencies

Sports fans enjoyed a feast of great British seconds on the tracks of Europe yesterday, with the 4 x 400 metres team coming off worse in a continuing struggle with the United States, at the World Athletics Championships in Athens, and Damon Hill, the motor racing world champion, coming heartbreakingly close to claiming victory in the Hungarian Grand Prix.

In Athens, the four-lap relay team had been billed as the last golden hope of a world title in a championship coloured a dull silver for an expectant press and public; Iwan Thomas, Mark

Richardson and Jamie Baulch, all finalists in the individual event, were joined in the relay final by Roger Black, the Olympic silver medalist. But after a sluggish start from Thomas, the fastest man in the world coming into the championships, the Americans stayed tantalisingly out of reach.

Hill, who has spent the season fending off the criticisms of media, fans and his team owner alike and battling to make a new car competitive, had an extraordinary triumph snatched from his grasp when mechanical trouble struck with victory in sight.

With three laps to go, Hill led by over 30 seconds from

Jacques Villeneuve, the Canadian lead driver with the once all-powerful Williams team which had dispensed with Hill's services at the end of last season, and was firmly on course to win his first race for Arrows.

But a hydraulic pump problem caused Hill's car to slow dramatically. He was powerless to resist as Villeneuve whittled down his advantage before passing him on the final lap, with Hill seeming to half lift his Arrows over the line to take second. It was still an extraordinary performance by Hill, who had only managed one world championship point this season previously, but who first hinted at what might be late in Saturday's



Hill: Led until final lap

practice session when he jumped from seventh to third place on the starting grid with his final flying lap.

Hill said: "I started to have problems with the hydraulic pump. The throttle became intermittent and I couldn't change gear. I needed a 40-second lead on the final lap not 30." Tom Walkinshaw, Hill's Arrows team boss, could not hide his disappointment. "It's not easy," he said. "Damon did a fantastic job and deserved to win."

In football, the Premiership champions Manchester United are 12-1 with the bookmakers William Hill to lift the Premiership and FA Cup double after opening their league campaign with a 2-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur.

Full reports, Sport Tabloid

QUICKLY

New alliance
As war clouds roll over the Middle East, Syria is covertly forging an extraordinary new alliance with its old enemy, Saddam Hussein's Iraq. President Assad's about-turn, which will change the shape of Middle Eastern politics for years to come, aims not only to challenge Turkey's strategic partnership with Israel but - by drawing in Iran as well - form an invincible bloc in the Arab world.
Robert Fisk, page 8

Diana's return

Diana, Princess of Wales, returned last night from her visit to Bosnia to highlight the evils of landmines, with interest undimmed in her friendship with Dodi Fayed.
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news

significant shorts

Teenage girl dies in jetski collision with boat

A 17-year-old girl died yesterday when the jetski on which she was a passenger with her uncle was in collision with a power-boat towing a water skier on a lake. Faye Grundy, who went to Queenford Lake at Berinsfield, Oxfordshire, as part of her sister's birthday celebrations, was thrown into the power boat's propeller by the collision. She suffered massive stomach injuries and lost a leg. Despite rescue attempts the teenager died on her way to hospital.

Three charged in heroin haul

Police yesterday charged three men in connection with the seizure of heroin worth £100m which was found in a lorry. The 200kg haul – one of the largest to be seized in Britain – was found in the Slovenian-registered lorry in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, last week. Scotland Yard said the three men had been charged with conspiracy to import and supply the drug. They are due to appear in custody at Hendon magistrates court today.

Couple make love at the altar

A couple have been interviewed by police after they were caught by a Catholic priest as they made love near the altar of his church. The 17-year-old boy and a woman of 21 are being reported to the Crown Prosecution Service with a view to charges being brought. Dyfed-Powys Police say the couple have admitted making love at the Church of Our Lady of the Taper at Cardigan in west Wales. They were found undressed on a dais close to the altar as the priest, Father James Cunnane, was locking up.

Later Fr Cunnane held a Mass to re-bless the church after what he called "an act of sacrilege".

Jagger jacket sells for £200



A silk jacket belonging to Mick Jagger (pictured) sold for £200 at a charity auction yesterday.

The auction was the climax of a two-week long scarecrow festival at Groombridge Place Gardens and Enchanted Forest, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, with proceeds going to Save the Children.

Other items on sale included a dress designed and worn by Vivienne Westwood, a pair of crushed velvet trousers, complete with rip, worn on stage by Wet Wet Wet lead singer Marti Fellow, and a cravat worn by cult singer Mike Flowers Pop.

Jagger's blue silk jacket was bought by a Brighton man who said he was "more of a Beatles fan" but wanted it as an investment for his daughter.

Four escape crash landing

A light aircraft with four people on board crashlanded in a field last night. The aircraft came down near houses in the village of Moresby, near Whitehaven, in Cumbria. One man suffered a minor injury to his ankle and was taken to the West Cumbria Hospital in Whitehaven. The three others escaped unhurt. The plane appeared to have developed a mechanical fault, police said.

Picnic for toads and newts

Conservationists staged a protest picnic yesterday at the site of a rare haven for frogs, toads and newts which they fear is under threat from the same farmer who destroyed a neighbouring wildlife site. Offham Marshes, near Lewes, Sussex, are owned by Justin Harmer who admits it is "an option" to plough them up and plant flax to earn European Union farming subsidies.

Earlier this year he ploughed Offham Down Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a chalk grassland site less than a mile away, under a loophole in European law which has been widely criticised. Tony Blair, as Opposition leader, said such "completely crazy" activities would not be permitted under a Labour government.

Matt Phillips, of Friends of the Earth, yesterday challenged Labour to honour its pre-election pledge on the environment. "Every year hundreds of our best nature sites are destroyed or damaged. The law must be strengthened to ensure they are given better protection." Louise Jury

Minke whale death toll doubles

Fears for the future of minke whales in the North Sea have increased after Norwegian whalers more than doubled their kills. Norway's whaling fleet killed 57 minke whales during the latest season, compared with only 23 last year, according to its own figures.

The figures also coincide with a dearth of minke whales around Shetland, the leading spot in Britain for sightings. Speaking on Shetland yesterday, wildlife expert Hugh Harrop said: "Usually we see 20 or 30 minke during the season. This year there have been only two or three. It may be wrong to draw conclusions. But the large percentage increase of killings in the North Sea this year is certainly interesting."

"Whether the whales' absence is connected with low availability of fish stocks or to the fact that northern part of the North Sea is gradually being depleted of whales, remains to be seen."

Toddler killed in car tragedy

A 16-month-old girl died at the weekend after being struck by a car which was being driven by her father. The accident happened on Saturday as the man was manoeuvring the car slowly outside the family home in Fimdon, West Sussex. Police believe the toddler had run out in front of the car without being seen. She died instantly.

Inspector Steve O'Rourke of Sussex Police, said: "The family are extremely distressed. The father was carrying out a low-speed manoeuvre when the child was knocked down."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) warned parents to take extra care when moving vehicles in the presence of children, following similar accidents in the past.

Three scoop £4.7m lottery

Three winners netted £4.7m each after scooping Saturday's £14.3m National Lottery jackpot. They matched the six lucky numbers: 1, 18, 20, 25, 30, 31. The bonus number was 44.

people



Enid Blyton: Never planned her stories in advance

How the Famous Five became a burden for Enid Blyton

Enid Blyton grew tired of writing her Famous Five books, and only continued because her publishers insisted, the author's daughter Gillian Beverstock told the Edinburgh Book Festival yesterday.

Miss Beverstock said her mother had only wanted to write six of the Famous Five series but churned out 21 between 1942 and 1963. "She told me she was getting a bit tired of some of the characters," Ms Beverstock said.

Today is the 100th anniversary of Enid Blyton's birth and her daughter began the celebrations yesterday by leading a workshop for young children at the festival. It was a little confusing for some of the under-fives, a few of whom confessed afterwards that they thought it had been Enid Blyton herself talking to them.

Miss Beverstock said her mother never planned a story in advance, and wrote each Famous Five story in five days. She said she would come in from school each day, pick up a pile of papers that her mother had been writing, rush up to her bedroom and read them and ask her mother what happened next. She would reply: "I don't know what's coming next. I won't know until I've finished the story." Typing 10,000 words a day was not a problem for her mother, she said.

Miss Beverstock is leading her support to a new marketing campaign to sell Enid Blyton to the Americans. Though Blyton sells 8.5 million copies a year worldwide, her sales in America are tiny. Now, the Enid Bly-

ton Company, owned by Trocadero plc which bought the rights to Blyton last year, has authorised a new animation of Noddy complete with American accents for showing on American television next year. Miss Beverstock defended this yesterday, saying: "Quite honestly, you have to translate books to go into the USA now. Real English has diverged so much from American English."

The new Noddy animation series will be made in a Canadian animation house called Catalyst. There will also be some film in the series from the British company Cosgrove Hall, but the bulk will be Canadian and both Noddy and Big Ears will have North American accents. The series will be shown on PBS, America's public broadcasting service, next year.

Miss Beverstock also said her mother had written many stories that were never published, and the Enid Blyton Company confirmed yesterday that it was examining 300 unpublished stories in the Blyton archives, and intended to turn some into television series.

Signing Noddy, Famous Five and Secret Seven books for children at the book festival yesterday, Miss Beverstock delighted each child and parent by telling them what her mother thought about the book, when and how it was written and also giving her own opinion of it. The queue moved very slowly.

David Lister

Leading article, page 14

Scrap merchant set to make millions out of £1 investment

A scrap-metal merchant who bought a bulk carrier for £1 when it sank off the Irish coast 11 years ago is now ready to raise its cargo – an estimated £7m in iron ore.

Shaun Kent, 39, has spent the last decade raising funds and developing the technology to extract the tiny marbles of ore from the hold of the *Kowloon Bridge* which lies two miles off the coast of County Cork. The expertise he accumulated has already helped the families of the 44 men who died when the *Kowloon Bridge*'s sister ship, the *Derbyshire*, sank 17 years ago. Mr Kent (right) was the first to pinpoint the site of the *Derbyshire* wreck, prompting new inquiries into the tragedy.

He is now putting the finishing touches to the diving ship for the mission which he believes will make his fortune. He aims to start work this month, snubbing critics who believed it would never happen, and expects the entire mission to be completed by the end of next summer. "I'd always had a bet that I would retire by 40 and I've blown that, because I'm 40 next March. But that's all right. When I'm done, I'm just looking forward to planting millions of trees which are my real love in life."

Mr Kent, who was born in Shore, Kent, left school at 15 but



has mastered university level textbooks on hydraulics and fluid dynamics to devise the scheme which he hopes will make him a millionaire. He worked out how to find the *Derbyshire* while serving a sentence for possession of cannabis. "All the best jobs are planned inside," he said.

He will begin by raising the ship's anchors and propellers which he will sell to finance the main operation – raising the cargo. In essence, the ore will be brought to the surface by sending streams of water at high pressure down to the cargo hold. The pressure will sweep up the little balls of iron ore and bring them to the surface. There are nearly 160,000 tons of iron ore and another 30,000 tons in the wreckage of the ship itself.

The project will be featured in a GeoFilms documentary, *The Flying Scrapman*, to be broadcast on Channel 4 tonight.

Louise Jury

Presidential role for Jane Asher

The actress Jane Asher, has accepted a new role as president of the National Autistic Society.

Ms Asher, who has been involved with the society for more than 10 years, already sits on the board of several charities as well as acting, writing and running her own cake shop.

Her first novel, *The Longing*, was well received and she is currently working on her second. She has already written several cookery and children's books and is a cake consultant for Sainsbury's, McVities, and British Airways.

But despite all this, and a successful marriage of 25 years to the cartoonist Gerald Scarfe, she feels her nickname Superwoman is unfair.

"It's a total illusion really. My life is actually disorganised and I rush from one thing to another," she said a few months ago – just before the start of her 25-part afternoon television show.

Ms Asher said of her new appointment: "Autism is a complex condition and I am happy to do what I can to help highlight the problems that people with autism and their families face."

"I am proud to be part of the excellent work that the NAS is doing and have enjoyed my association immensely."

"I am looking forward to further developing my role within the society and to helping influence a greater understanding of autism."

Blind women's trek ends in tears of joy

The first blind women to walk the length of Britain ended their marathon charity trek yesterday after 892 miles on the road.

Dorothy Oliver, 43, from Edinburgh, and Sandra Brumby, 50, a grandmother from South Levenson, Nottinghamshire, celebrated with champagne at Land's End.

Ms Brumby, who worked out at a fitness centre before the walk, said at the finish today: "It was extremely exciting, far more emotional than I thought it would be." Holidaymakers, members of their support group and guides clapped them home the last few steps, and she admitted: "It got to me. There were big tears."

Ms Brumby and Ms Oliver volunteered for the walk after the audio magazine *Weekend Listener* asked for two women volunteers after two blind men made the trip last year.

"It is the most adventurous thing I have done," said Ms Brumby who has backpacking experience. "I feel fitter than when I started – and I only have one blister," she said.

Ms Oliver, a telephoneist at Fountainsbridge Citizens Advice Bureau, said the trek was a "just wonderful" experience. "It was the biggest physical challenge I have undertaken," she said. Ms Oliver, who in the past has tried her hand at skiing and mountain climbing.

The women, who left John O'Groats on 12 June, aimed to raise £10,000 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind, and *Weekend Listener*.

They decided the walk to Land's End to raise awareness of how blindness need not mean the end of an active life.

The two women walked up to 18 miles a day, and they praised the more than 150 sighted guides from local communities who accompanied them along the way.

Hotels, guest houses and families sponsored food and accommodation, and thousands put contributions into collection buckets along the route.

briefing

EMPLOYMENT

British workers riding high in EU prosperity league

Workers have a better standard of living in the UK than in most other European Union countries even though their pay is often lower, according to a report today.

The average employee in Britain receives the equivalent of £6.80 an hour compared with £6.50 in Germany, £5.30 in France and £5.70 in Sweden, after adjustments for national differences in pricing and purchasing power, it was reported. Only workers in Luxembourg (£7.40 an hour), Austria (£7.10) and Ireland (£7) receive more in net pay, said consultants Sedgwick Noble Lowndes.

"For many years the general impression has been that UK employees enjoy a lower standard of living than in other parts of central and northern Europe. This is certainly not borne out by the figures today," said David Formosa, Sedgwick's international research manager. "Other countries may offer higher gross salaries but this does not mean that their citizens are always better off."

Workers pay a comparatively smaller amount in tax and welfare contributions in the UK, which compensates for the generally lower level of earnings, said the report. For the average worker, deductions from gross earnings are 25 per cent in the UK, compared with 33 per cent in Germany and 38 per cent in Denmark. Bottom of the league is Portugal, where workers receive the equivalent of £3.20 an hour despite having the lowest amount deducted from their salaries, the report showed.

LEISURE

TV saga fuels surge in tourism

The television blockbuster *Pride and Prejudice* is still helping draw the crowds to historic houses, it was disclosed today.

Two homes used in BBC's filming of the classic Jane Austen novel saw big leaps in visitor numbers last year, said the English Tourist Board.

Lyne Park in Disley, Cheshire, which "doubled" as Mr Darcy's palatial Pemberley estate – had a 42 per cent increase in visitors in 1996, compared with the 1995 total. And Sudbury Hall in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, used for internal shots of Pemberley, did even better: visitor numbers soared 59 per cent. In addition, 1996 saw a 39 per cent increase in visitors to Saltram in Plymouth near Plymouth, which featured in the film version of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, featuring Emma Thompson and Kate Winslett. "With *Pride and Prejudice* being shown again this year on television, we're hoping visitor numbers will rise again in 1997," said an English Tourist Board spokesman.

The figures were part of an overall ETB survey which showed that visits to English historic properties in 1996 rose 2 per cent to 70.4 million. These visitors spent £231m – an 8 per cent increase on 1995's figure. Sixteen properties had 20 per cent increases in visitor levels in 1996 and nearly 60 attracted more than 200,000. Of those charging admission (see table), the Tower of London was the most popular.

Top ten attractions

1. Tower of London	2,53m
2. Canterbury Cathedral	1.7m
3. Windsor Castle	1.2m
4. St Paul's Cathedral	1m
5. Roman Baths	
6. Pump Room, Bath	\$02,186
7. Warwick Castle	\$20,000
8. Stonehenge	\$17,544
9. Hampton Court Palace	\$12,155
10. Leeds Castle, Kent	\$9,714
11. Eltonham Palace	\$19,502

PROPERTY

'Logbook' plan for simpler sales

Making house-sellers rather than buyers responsible for the survey and introducing property "logbooks" would help make buying a home as simple as having a car, a report said today.

Offers to buy or sell houses should also be made legally binding on both sides, which would end the nightmare of gazumping and long chains, it said.

The proposals were put forward by the Adam Smith Institute, the right-wing think tank, following the Government's decision last week to research why buying and selling houses causes so much stress and misery. Under the institute's proposals, sellers would be responsible for the survey and for keeping a logbook of essential information which would be given to potential buyers.

It is quite common for several potential buyers to have surveys done on the same property, which was "needless duplication and a source of cost, uncertainty and delay", the institute said. In addition, electronic links between solicitors and local councils could cut the buying time "from months to minutes", it claimed.

The report suggested moving to a system similar to that in Scotland, where the offer to buy a house and the seller's acceptance of it are binding on both sides. In England and Wales, the law allows either party to withdraw from a sale until the time contracts are exchanged, and obliges estate agents to make the seller aware of any other offers right up until this moment.

MEDICINE

Deer could hold key to bone disease

Deer antlers, and the unusual way they grow, could provide valuable clues for scientists investigating brittle bone disease in humans.

In osteoporosis, bone minerals and protein are drawn back by the body, causing the bones to lose density. A similar process happens in red deer to provide the raw material for the antlers, which are grown and then shed each year. During the summer the antlers grow rapidly, fuelled by the resorption of bone in other parts of the body, especially the ribs. But unlike osteoporosis in humans, the process in deer is reversible. During the winter, when the antlers are dead, the bone lost to the rest of the skeleton is replaced.

Dr Joanna Price, from the Bone and Mineral Centre at University College London Medical School, is heading a study of antler regeneration and the mechanisms underlying bone resorption in red deer. In particular she has been looking at the role of sex hormones and proteins known as growth factors. She said: "We believe the underlying cellular mechanisms are similar... If we knew how deer are able to strengthen their osteoporotic bones, we might be better placed to devise effective treatments for the human disease."



SHOPPING

Boom time for department stores

More and more shoppers are heading for department stores in search of good service and interesting products, according to figures published today.

John Lewis is named as the nation's favourite all-round shopping destination, nudging ahead of last year's league table-topper, Debenhams. Overall, sales in department stores rose 5 per cent last year to reach £7.6bn, according to industry analysts Verdict. The success of department stores is put down to a wider range of brands they offer in comparison to high-street chain stores. Customers – identified as affluent over-35s – also look for high quality service and good price deals. But the report warns that stores which are poorly located outside main shopping centres are being left out of the boom and will be lucky to survive. Too many also need refurbishing, and need to keep up with rising customer expectations, says the report. John Lewis is listed as having a 20.8 per cent share of the department store market followed by Debenhams at 20 per cent, House of Fraser 12 per cent, Co-Operatives 11.5 per cent, Harrods 6.7 per cent, Alders 6.3 per cent and Selfridges 4.6 per cent.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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صدا من الامين

Calls grow for national debate on drugs



Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair last night was facing growing calls from Labour backbenchers for an open debate about the decriminalisation of drugs after the killing of a five-year-old in Bolton.

Brian Iddon, the Labour MP for Bolton West, became the latest in a line of MPs to "think the unthinkable" by questioning the Government's policy of saying no to decriminalising drugs.

The boy's mother, Jane Hull, is facing eviction from her £70-a-week terraced house in

Jauncey Street. *The Independent* on Sunday reported that her landlady, Daxa Patel, is meeting lawyers today over her tenancy following warnings of another attack on the boy's stepfather, John Bates and residents' demands for them to leave the area.

The aftermath of the murder of Dillon Hull in what police believe was part of the turf wars between drug dealers has made Labour MPs bolder in calling for drugs law reform. Some MPs want drugs such as Ecstasy and cannabis to be legalised with more information

about safe use, and hard drugs such as heroin to be freely prescribed by GPs.

"Clare Short mentioned the word 'decriminalisation' and got into hot water for doing so but there are a number of people on the Labour backbenches who want an open, honest discussion about the drug problem," said Mr Iddon.

The controversy over the killing may also increase the support for a new all-party Commons group on drugs reform.

Paul Flynn, the Labour MP and a campaigner for drugs de-

criminalisation, claimed 25 Labour MPs had put down their names to join the group, including the Blairite members of the new intake with the Tory peer, Lord Mancroft, a former heroin addict.

Mr Flynn said the Government's appointment of a "drugs czar" would open the debate. It had been a failure in America, and he said the terms of the Government's recent advertisement for the "Czar", calling for a war on drugs, showed the Government had learned none of the lessons of dealing with organised crime.

A backlash among some Labour MPs against Peter Mandelson, minister in charge of presentation of policy, would strengthen other Labour MPs in insisting that the drugs issue should be aired, he added.

"We are a drug-obsessed House of Commons but it is irrational. Almost all the premature deaths of MPs are drugs related."

"MPs' heads go back when I say that, but there are 16 bars in the House of Commons and they sound off about drugs with a whisky in one hand, a cigarette in the other, and a pack-

et of Paracetamol in their top pocket," said Mr Flynn.

A Downing Street source said the Government would not seek to prevent the debate, but it would strongly oppose the liberalisation of the drugs laws.

"The party and the Government is opposed to that, and there will be no change in our position," said the source.

Mr Iddon said Labour

"hacked off" the debate about legalisation of soft drugs when it was raised by Ms Short, before she was appointed as the minister for international development. Ms Short survived the row, but was demoted from transport to be put in charge of the former overseas aid portfolio before the election.

Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, won the right to keep Britain's border controls at the EU Amsterdam as part of the strategy inherited from the Tories of combating drug smuggling and selling with tough criminal laws.

The shirt was Lauren, the jeans were by Armani ... and the tears flowed right on cue

Kim Sengupta reports from Bosnia

Diana, Princess of Wales, could not resist one last photo opportunity of the tour, on the airport runway with a group of French servicemen. The first thing she did on getting on to George Soros's private plane was to dive into a pile of Sunday newspapers with stories about herself and Dodi al-Fayed.

That final scene seemed to sum up the nature of her visit to Bosnia. It was meant to highlight the casualties of landmines but inevitably became subsumed by the unfolding tale, in London, of her relationship with the son of the Harrods owner. There was a further problem. As "Queen of Hearts" the Princess may well be one of Britain's most visible exports, but in the parts of Bosnia where she visited those injured by mines, she simply was not known.

'In parts of Bosnia she simply was not known'

An element of bathos ran throughout the three-day tour. Yesterday, at the deprived and battered suburb of Bujakov Potok, which like the rest of Sarajevo had suffered much in the war, the Princess went to meet 15-year-old Mirzeta Gabelic, who had lost her right leg in an explosion.

Since the Bosnia visit was meant to be "strictly private", there were around 100 journalists with her. The Princess arrived wearing a pink Ralph Lauren shirt and Armani jeans. The locals mostly looked bewildered. A young man, asked by his friend what the tour was about, replied: "Some Diana is moving in". Another said that "They are coming to clean up the water."

The Princess's visits to the homes of those injured by mines were kept secret from her hosts,

and were meant to be "surprises".

This led to some confusion. Mohammed Soljankic, who lost both legs to a mine, was told that on his birthday he would get two presents, a pair of artificial legs and a visit from a general in the international peace-keeping force.

When the Princess arrived the Soljankic family stood in embarrassed silence, not knowing who their guest was; neighbours seemed bemused to be the centre of such media attention. There was also resentment at Mr Soljankic's good fortune. He was apparently not liked for a number of reasons, the least libellous of which appeared to be a convoluted tale involving a goat.

However, the Princess was unfazed by all this. To show her care and to bring comfort she pressed on with her visits and embraced perfect strangers.

Yesterday, at the Lav Cemetery in Sarajevo, she hugged the mother of Jadic Dragan, who is buried there, after deciding to make an unscheduled stop to look at graves. Mrs Dragan had gone to place some flowers on her son's grave and was not expecting the encounter, but according to those present, smiled at the end.

People from anti-landmine pressure groups and charities who accompanied the Princess on her trip said that she regularly cried during visits to homes of victims. Ken Rutherford, of the Landmine Survivors Network, said: "There are tears and water in her eyes at many visits." He added that the Princess was passionately committed to helping victims of landmines.

The Princess's trip to Angola as part of her landmine crusade last year was judged to be a huge success. The present trip, because of the controversy of her relationship with Mr Fayed, could be said to be much less so. Although journalists covering the Princess's trip have been trying to highlight the problem of landmines, one Sarajevo-based counterpart complained: "All you lot want to do is find out if she did it with Dodi."



Snap-happy: French members of the peace-keeping force focus on the Princess in Sarajevo after her trip highlighting the plight of landmine victims

Photograph: Reuters

Paparazzo who will snap up millions

Louise Jury

While Diana, Princess of Wales, was posing for the photographers with landmine victims in Bosnia, the focus had home was on a much more informal setting.

Mario Brenna is set to become a millionaire from his snaps of the princess on a yacht off the coast of Sardinia with Dodi Fayed, the millionaire playboy son of the Harrods owner, Mohamed Al Fayed. It is understood Brenna, a 40-year-old Italian who lives in Monaco, happened to spot the Fayed boat, *Jonikal*, as he was in the area on other photographic assignments.

The sight of Princess Diana and Mr Fayed relaxing together in swimming costumes caught with his telephoto lens appeared in the *Sunday Mirror* yesterday and are set for publication around the world today. The reproduction rights over the next year or two could net Mr Brenna several million pounds.

Though barely known to the British paparazzi, Brenna is a respected photographer in the worlds of fashion and Mediterranean high society.

He has been an official photographer to fashion houses including Versace, and augmented his living by photographing some of the smartest parties.

"The most successful people in this business are the ones that can cross from one sort of thing to another. He's one of them," said one journalist yesterday. A photographer said: "He's a very smooth chap and, I expect, a very desirable one right now."

It is understood that the *Sunday Mirror*, which is part of the Mirror Group, a shareholder in *The Independent*, paid around £250,000 for its exclusive rights to the pictures yesterday and other tabloids are rumoured to have paid £100,000 each for more today.

The deals in Britain have been brokered by London photographer Jason Fraser. It is understood he was contacted by



Exclusive: The *Sunday Mirror* front page yesterday

Brenna earlier this week and is handling the rights in America and Australia as well as the UK.

Negotiations would have been carried out at the most senior newspaper management level. Half a dozen papers were contacted and an agreement was struck. *The Mail on Sunday* later offered an increased bid, but Fraser refused to renege on the *Sunday Mirror* deal.

Fraser is known as a photographer who works alone.

His assignments have included photographing Colonel Gaddafi after the bombing of Tripoli but he also frequently pictured the British royals. He once handed a roll of film to Princess Diana when she was upset at being photographed leaving a dinner party with a stranger.

The French rights to Brenna's pictures are being handled by Daniel Angeli, who took the notorious Duchess of York toe-sucking pictures.

The Diana photographs were described as "intrusive" yesterday by Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio, but he ruled out government action to impose tougher privacy laws, writes Colin Brown.

He said he was against introducing statutory laws on press and privacy, and he cast doubt on claims that the Government plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law would mean new curbs on the press.

Mr Mandelson said the convention gives protection to both the individual's right to privacy and the media's right to freedom of expression. "You've got two competing rights there and they've got to be properly balanced," he said. The Government would leave it up to the judges to determine the balance, said Mr Mandelson, who saw nothing wrong with media coverage of Robin Cook's decision to leave his wife after 28 years to live with his secretary. "Robin Cook himself has

said he's a public person, he's a public individual. What he regretted were the consequences for his wife and family and he made a very fulsome apology to the hounding that they subsequently received.

"Although I must say I think even that has been tempered by a great deal of responsibility and sensitivity shown in the main by the press," Mr Mandelson said on BBC *Breakfast* with Frost.

The problem of having an all-encompassing privacy law being introduced by Parliament is the protection it gives to those who don't merit protection," added the minister.

"The press, when it's doing its job properly, when it's not just engaging in gossip and tit-bit-tattle and having a go at various individuals ... is exposing wrongdoing and corruption and malpractice. I would hate to see the day when the British press are prevented from exposing that wrongdoing."

Accused Saudi nurses must wait a week for court verdict

Louise Jury

The judge in the case of the two British nurses accused of murdering a colleague in Saudi Arabia has retired to consider the evidence and the verdict.

A decision in the case of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan is expected to take at least another week.

The two women are accused

of murdering the Australian nurse Yvonne Gilford, 55, in December last year.

Miss Gilford's body was found in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran with multiple stab wounds.

In a last-minute move, lawyers defending the two women yesterday presented the court in Khobar with new evidence it had requested from

Australia on the mental competence of Miss Gilford's 64-year-old mother, Muriel, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Under Saudi law, the victim's family have the right to accept "blood money" or compensation from Miss Parry and Miss McLauchlan in place of execution if the two are convicted.

Frank Gilford, the dead

nurses' brother, has called for the death penalty on his mother's behalf as well as his own on the grounds that she is incapable of making a decision.

The victim's relatives have to be unanimous in any call for capital punishment and it is unclear whether Mrs Gilford is well enough to make a decision.

An Australian court on Friday ordered Mr Gilford to refrain from calling for the British

nurses' execution until the issue of Mrs Gilford's competence was decided by the Saudi courts.

But lawyers representing Miss McLauchlan, 31 from Dundee, and Miss Parry, 38 from Alton, Hampshire, said in a statement issued in Riyadh last week that they had obtained new evidence about the mental competence of Mrs Gilford, which was due to be put to the court yesterday.

They said the new evidence was "a major breakthrough" but would not elaborate.

Jonathan Ashbee, Miss Parry's brother-in-law, said: "The judge has closed the case and has gone away to consider the verdict, which we think will take about a week."

But he said no public announcement of the verdict would be made. Grant Ferris, Miss McLauch-

lan's fiancé, is in Saudi Arabia and visited the two women in Damman central prison on Saturday and again yesterday.

Their relatives have expressed concern about the women's health, which they said was deteriorating in Damman Central Prison.

However, Mr Ashbee said they were in "reasonable spirits based on what we have been telling them on what has been

happening in Australia."

If the women are found innocent they will be released from prison, but if they are found guilty the case automatically goes through the appeal system.

The two nurses claim they were forced to make confessions under the threat of sexual mistreatment from their interrogators, and have since retracted their statements.

the vice invasion

The slavemaster who bought village girls for a Mona Lisa life of sex and degradation



Caught in the act: A police surveillance photograph showing Carlos Pires, the convicted Brazilian pimp, picking up one of his Brazilian prostitutes outside his escort agency in Paddington, west London, to take her to a hotel for sex with a customer

For £250, the Copacabana Escort Agency could guarantee you sexual satisfaction. A balding pimp, or one of his two hired hands, would drive the young Brazilian women to the London hotel of your choice.

The "escorts", many of them naive village girls, often came dressed in just a fur coat and shoes to avoid wasting time with the client - just like the prostitute in the film *Mona Lisa*.

Once the sex was completed, the girl would repeat one of the few English phrases she had been taught: "Where is my present?"

With the money in her pocket, she would return to the agency in one of two buildings in a seedy part of London, where about a dozen other Brazilian women were housed and effectively enslaved.

For five years, this was the lucrative trade plying by Carlos Pires, a Brazilian "businessman", who until his conviction last year is believed to have made £5m for his escort businesses which involved smuggling in about 100 women.

The police believe Pires, 53, is just the "tip of the iceberg" and have evidence to prove that organised criminals, including members of Hong Kong Triad gangs and high-ranking East European gangsters, are now trying to take over and expand parts of Britain's sex industry.

The case of Carlos Pires

Jason Bennetto on the foreign gangs taking over prostitution

shows the potential for foreign criminals in an industry that is very lucrative and relatively risk free.

Pires and his girlfriend persuaded about 100 Brazilian women, aged between 18 and 25, to come to London to work as nannies, maids, dancers and escorts. Some knew they were becoming involved in sexual services, others did not. They were all promised money and a bright future.

The reality was being forced to work as a prostitute to serve 10 to 15 men in a 12-hour session, six to seven days a week.

The escort agencies were advertised in magazines. From

the minimum charge of £250 for sex, the women were allowed to keep £50-£60. Their passports and travel documents were confiscated so they could not run away.

Each woman was charged between £7,500 to £9,000 for being brought into the UK and £350 to £450 a week for accommodation and expenses.

A 150-page ledger was kept to record what the women owed which included charges for electricity, use of television, even condoms. In one case a woman who had earned the sum of £20,000 still "owed" £11,000.

In March last year, Pires was

jailed for three and a half years for living on immoral earnings and smuggling in women. A confiscation order of £725,000 was also made against him.

Evidence is emerging to show that organised gangs are already starting to move into the British market.

The Immigration Service and police, working together, uncovered an operation involving at least two men, one of whom was high-ranking criminal from Lithuania, bringing in up to 55 women from Russia to the UK to work as prostitutes in flats in central London.

In October 1995, their associate, Jan Borovikov, who used

the alias "Jan Bush", was jailed for 21 months for blackmail and two counts of living on immoral earnings. Borovikov told the police that he wanted to be the "vice king of Soho" and vowed to return.

Evidence has also been found to show that Triad gangs from Hong Kong have run brothels in London, Manchester, Dublin and Glasgow and detectives believe they exist in most cities with a large Chinese community.

Since 1992, the police have raided six separate Triad-run brothels in London. They found inside about 10 women from Malaysia, Hong Kong

and Thailand who had been brought over under false pretences.

They were forced to work 12-14-hour shifts, seven days a week, earning only a very small percentage of the fee for sex - £100 for an hour - in which the punters were allowed to have sex twice. The women were also charged for their air fares, rent and meals. They had their identification papers confiscated.

Some of the girls were prostitutes from the Far East, others were village girls, who had been promised good money and conditions in Britain.

Criminals from South East Asia, particularly Malaysia, have recently been discovered supplying London brothels, pimps and escort agencies with women.

Today, if anyone wants to hire a foreign prostitute it could not be simpler. Escort agencies in the back of listings magazines boast a "selection of international girls". The woman at one company said that for a minimum of £220 she could send over a selection of Russian escorts - "blonde, brunette, we have a big choice." in about 30 minutes. An extra hour would cost £50.

Obtaining a Thai, Japanese or Chinese prostitute was just as easy. The cost for two hours' company was £200. A man at the escort company said: "We can guarantee you satisfaction."

The escorts often came dressed in just a fur coat and shoes to avoid wasting time with the client. After sex, they would ask, 'where is my present?'



Life imitating art: Bob Hoskins and Cathy Tyson in a scene from *Mona Lisa*

World of organised crime sweeps into Britain



SOUTH AMERICA
In one operation about 100 women, aged 18 to 25, were smuggled into Britain over a five-year period to work as prostitutes with an escort agency.

The women, who were usually recruited in South America in groups of three or four, were flown to Portugal where false travel documents were obtained.

Some of the women came over to work as dancers or au pairs, were duped into believing they had a great future.

For the first few nights some girls were kept in hotels, wine and dined, and had their photographs taken in hired dresses before being thrust into brothels.

The agency charged £250 for sex with women, which usually took place in hotels throughout London.

Women recruited as au pairs

including most of the capital's top establishments.

About 10 women were kept at one time in two houses in west London, where they had to pay for their board and lodging. They were only allowed to keep a tiny proportion of the money they earned.

Passports and identification papers were confiscated. The women said they were too frightened to run away.

When the police seized the ledger of the organiser, they found details of hundreds of clients - several of them household names.

Prisoners of Triads

THE FAR EAST

Chinese Triads, particularly the 14K and Wo Shing Wo groups, bring prostitutes to Britain from the Far East and kept them virtually as prisoners in brothels.

Women, some of whom were already prostitutes, while others have been tricked into coming, travel as tourists or illegally on false documents. They are kept about 10 to a house in London, Glasgow, Manchester, and Dublin - most cities with a large Chinese community.

Only Oriental men are allowed into the brothels, where they pay £100 for sex twice in an hour.

The women have their documents taken away and are only allowed outside with a minder. The gangsters threaten to kill their families if they speak to the police. The women have very little English and when eventually deported or



repatriated leave with just a few hundred pounds.

The women are believed to be moved around the country every two to four months to provide more choice for the clients.

Others from the Far East have also come to London and contacted brothels, pimps and escort agencies offering to supply new women from abroad. They charge the pimp about £3,000 and the woman £5,000. The women are smuggled in or brought in on a false identity or on a holiday visa.



EASTERN EUROPE

East European criminals, including Russian gangsters, believe the UK sex industry is ripe for takeover as no one is in overall control and there are big profits. The Russian mafia have already moved into vice in cities such as Amsterdam and Hamburg. There is evidence of setting up small brothels in flats in Soho, where Russian prostitutes are kept. It is feared they are about to expand. They usually operate by sending one of their representatives to an existing brothel, pimp or escort agency, and offer to provide prostitutes from the Eastern bloc. This continues until gangsters know how the system works. They then use extreme violence, including firearms, to threaten pimps and take

Russian mafia eye UK riches

over the operation. They are particularly interested in escort services and massage parlours because there is more money to be made in these areas and very little harassment from police, who are more concerned about street prostitutes and pimps. When police have arrested Russian prostitutes the women have repeated a prepared "script" claiming political asylum. Privately they admit they are too frightened to testify against their bosses.

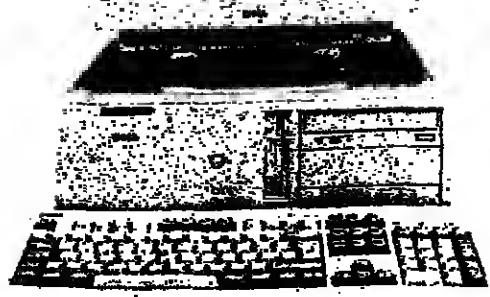
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مذكرات من الاصل

Summer warms up, but the heat comes off for city bladders

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

In-line skating has found a new champion in the Government with Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Mr Smith has told officials that he wants to protect in-line skating in the Royal Parks from any renewed attempts to ban the sport.

He privately told friends he has come under renewed pressure since the election to curb in-line skating because of the risk to other park users. Parks police have been lobbying for a by-law to impose penalties, such as fines on those who break park rules covering in-line skating.

"If you are a little old granma walking your chihuahua and you see a Panzer brigade of Rollerbladers coming, it can be intimidating," said a parks source. Mr Smith, who does not do the sport, is firmly digging in his heels on behalf of the skaters. The demands for a ban started two years



Hot issue: Skaters in Hyde Park. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Sport, has said he wants to resist any new attempts to ban the sport in Royal Parks

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathiga

ago when a BBC researcher, Mark Welch, 26, was killed when a skater crash into the bicycle he was riding. The coroner accused the Royal Parks Agency of "spineless acquiescence to minority groups" for bowing to pressure from the skaters. Within weeks, it announced that in-line skating would be restricted to cycle tracks in Hyde Park, the Serpentine Road and - on Sundays, when traffic is prohibited - South Carriage Drive. In Kensington Gardens, in-line skating was allowed on the Albert Memorial Road and in a special area set aside for it on the Broadwalk. But it was banned in Green Park and Greenwich Park, St

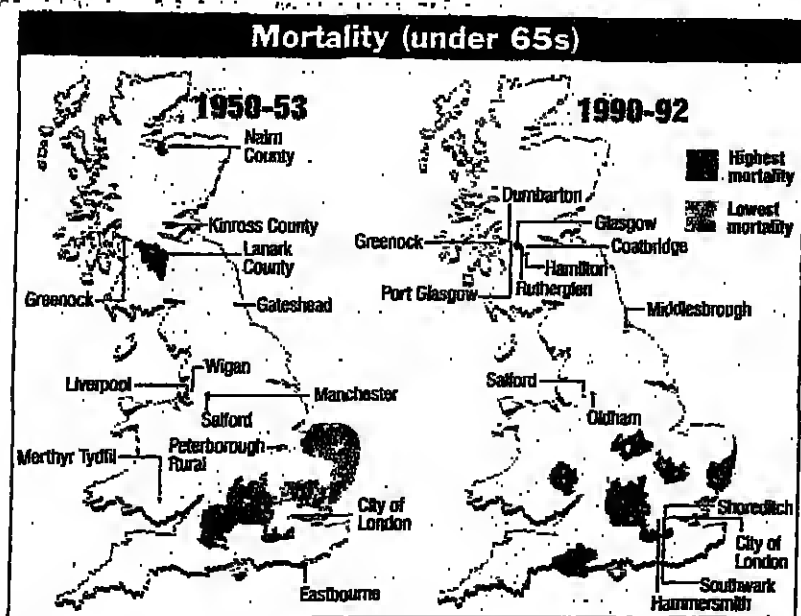
James's Park and Regent's Park. Skaters said the curbs were "undemocratic" and if there is more skating weather, Mr Smith may come under pressure to allow the skaters more freedom to roll.

Sunbathers basking in the sweltering weather will be targeted in a skin safety campaign run by Cancer Research Campaign, which is launching a national six-day tour of beaches and parks across the UK to encourage sun worshippers to take precautions. The roadshows will incorporate sun protection advice and campaigners will be slapping sun lotion on sunbathers. The focus is to be on educating children about the

damaging effects of the sun in the light of a recent poll which showed that British youngsters would rather have a tan than be thin. Campaigners warn that a history of sunburn in childhood can increase the likelihood of developing skin cancer as an adult. As temperatures soared on Saturday in the south of England

thousands of holidaymakers were caught in a traffic jam on the M5 from Gloucester to Exeter, in Devon. London, the Midlands and East Anglia saw the highest temperatures, with a peak of 30C. The hot spell is due to break during the week with the onset of thunder storms but will return next weekend.

Why death in Britain is not a leveller



Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

Death is no longer the great equaliser - where you live is a better guide to your chance of dying early than at any time for 50 years, according to a major new study.

People living in areas with the highest mortality rates are now almost twice as likely to die prematurely as those who live where mortality rates are lowest - the greatest degree of inequality since local records were first collated in 1928.

And for children the difference in death rates can be as much as eight times between different areas of the country.

While there have been substantial improvements in survival, the research, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, says that one in twelve of the population now live in areas where premature death rates are 15 per cent above the national average.

"Many people think life chances have been getting better all the time, so to learn that we are more unequal than we were in the 1950s may be surprising," said Dr Daniel Dorling, author of the report.

Northern urban cities and towns come out worse, in particular Glasgow, Salford and Oldham recording the largest numbers of premature deaths (defined as deaths before the age of 65).

For children the difference can be as much as eight times between different areas

In comparison living in rural southern areas such as Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey will boost your chances of achieving a ripe old age.

Amongst younger men, inner London boroughs such as Southwark and Hammersmith also came out badly whereas younger women in Leicestershire and Edinburgh also fared badly.

Using comparable 1951 local authority boundaries the three areas with the highest mortality rates in the 1990s (Oldham, Salford and Greenock) had mortality ratios only a fifth higher than the national average in the early 1950s.

Their rates are now rising to a third higher than the national rate. "Almost a thousand deaths a year would be avoided were the mortality rates not excessive in just these three places," the report concludes.

Differences in death rates cannot be blamed on factors such as smoking alone because death rates amongst children show similar divergences, meaning that where a child is born is more important than ever in determining his or her chances of survival.

While nationally infant mortality has seen the most dramatic falls regional divides mimic the adult experience.

An infant girl in Leeds is more than twice as likely to die in the first year of life compared to her peers growing up in a town in Dorset. And eight times as many boys aged between 1 and 4 died in Manchester as compared to rural Gloucestershire between 1990-2.

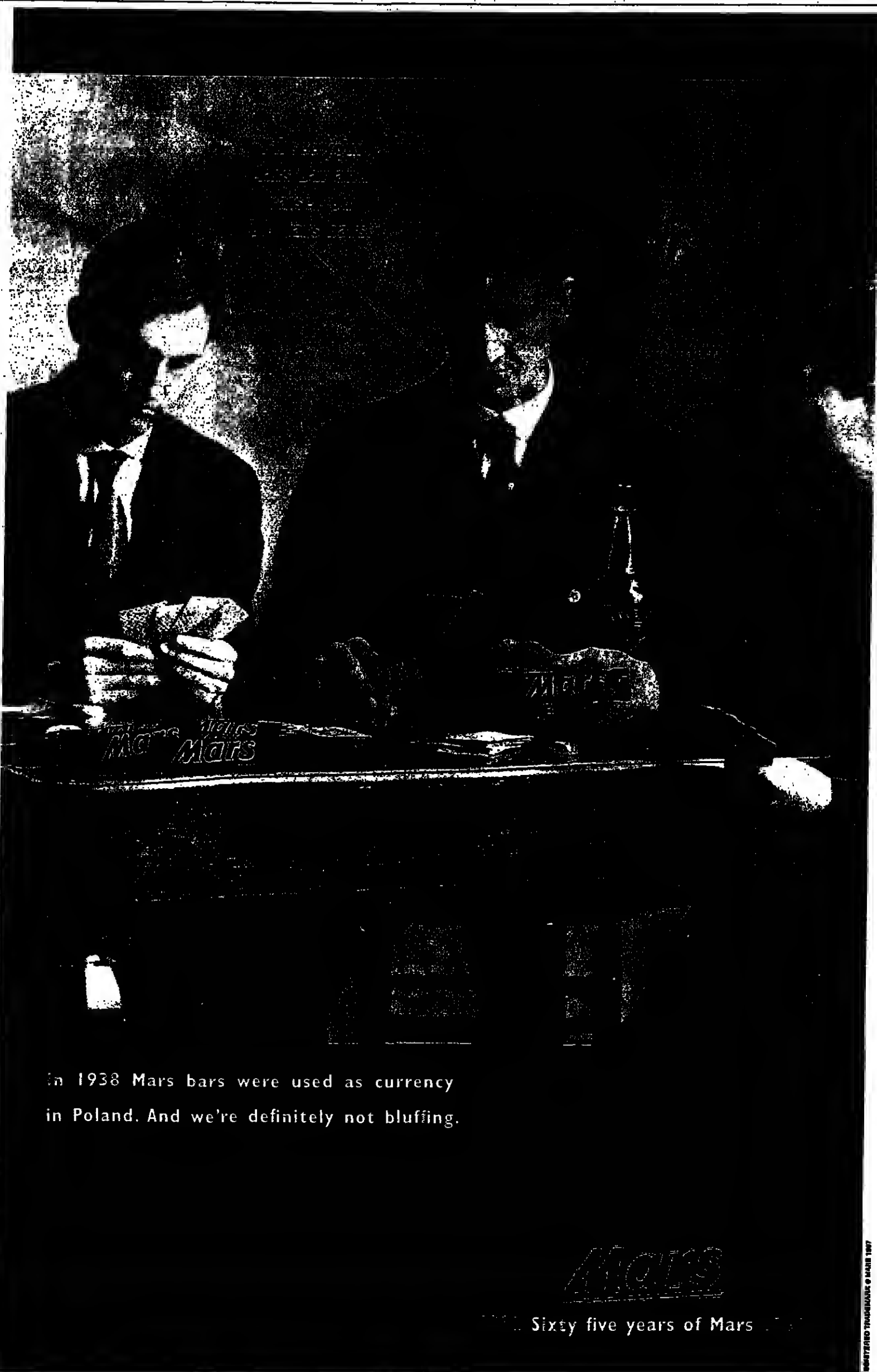
The researchers concluded that there was a strong link between poverty and premature death, with the worst tenth of areas in Britain also showing up among the most socially disadvantaged areas.

"We are becoming less equal in death," said Dr Dorling. "Where people live in the 1990s has become a more reliable guide to their chances of dying before they reach retirement age than at any time since the Second World War."

"The tragedies occurred too quickly - and involves too many deaths - to be explained simply by a changing distribution of wealth, changing causes of death or as a reflection of past health inequalities."

"These patterns of varying life chances need to be investigated - and that is likely to prove a harder task than describing them."

Death in Britain: how local mortality rates have changed 1950s to 1990s is available from York Publishing Services, 64 Halfhill Rd, Leythorpe, York YO3 7XQ price £13.45



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news

Former Pc tells drivers how to dodge law

Ian Burrell

Police are examining a controversial booklet written by a former traffic officer which advises motorists on how to avoid punishment for driving offences.

The booklet claims to have been written by a retired policeman with 22 years' experience and offers readers "the information the police don't want you to have". By exploiting "legal loopholes", drivers can learn how to avoid prosecution for positive breath tests, defeat speed traps and overturn

Safety campaigners angry over booklet that encourages motorists to exploit legal loopholes

parking tickets, the book claims. But police attacked the author's actions as "outrageous" and are examining the publication to see if it breaks the law. Inspector Chris Hume, of Northamptonshire police, said: "For a retired police officer to see it as fair game to write a book that destroys everything that he has been working for during his career is outrageous. We are about road safety and should not be doing anything to

detract from the message that road safety is about saving lives."

The book tries to arouse a sense of injustice in motorists by claiming they are unnecessarily fined in order to generate money for the authorities.

"The motorist is an easy target," it claims. "He's much easier to catch than a burglar, will give less trouble when he is caught and is more likely to have money in his pocket to pay a substantial fine."

Readers are given sample letters to send off to the police and courts in order to "kill" the possibility of incurring penalties. Drivers are also encouraged to challenge the accuracy of speed detectors and told not to produce their driving licences at the roadside and how to talk their way out of fines. Advice is given on how to drive above the speed limit without the risk of being stopped. Motorists are also taught to exploit the "poor" knowledge of

the law that most special constables have and the "apparent disarray" of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The book has been widely advertised in motoring and men's magazines and has already sold some 14,000 copies since it first went on sale last year. The publisher, John Harrison, said that a large number of police forces had placed orders.

"I guess the police are looking to see if we are committing

some sort of offence," he said. "We have had no feedback and I can only assume that they feel there is nothing in the book they can get upset over and take action on." He likened the role of the book to that of a defence solicitor advising a client for a forthcoming court case.

"If you believe that a solicitor encourages people to break the law because he advises people on their rights and obligations then you can say the same

thing about this book," he said. "I dare say that there are some police officers who wish that solicitors don't exist because they make their job more difficult."

Mr Harrison added: "In the same way we are telling people what their rights are and how they should deal with a particular legal situation and that is not going to make [the police's] job easier either."

He admitted that several road safety organisations had

written to complain about the booklet.

Mr Harrison said the author had been an existing customer of his company, Streetwise Marketing in Rotherham, and had offered his information as the material for a possible future publication. The writer uses the pseudonym of Martin Thwaite because he is apparently concerned about possible reprisals.

Mr Harrison said: "He just felt there would be an interest in the information. He did it to make money out of it."

Devolutionists try in vain to tame Tam

Stephen Goodwin

With more than a touch of *déjà vu*, Tam Dalyell, the independent-minded MP for Linlithgow, is proving a greater hazard to plans for a Scottish Parliament than the Tory-dominated No-No campaign.

Yesterday he was carpeted by his constituency party for breaking what they believed was a promise not to speak against devolution. While local activists accept he is not going to change his views, they had hoped he could be marginalised.

Questions he asked in the Commons, highlighting the nightmare of different tax rates north and south of the border, revived memories of the role he played in scuppering Labour's 1979 devolution scheme. Then he posed not just the West Lothian Question over Scots MPs continuing to vote on English affairs, but helped set a higher threshold for a Yes than in the event was achieved.

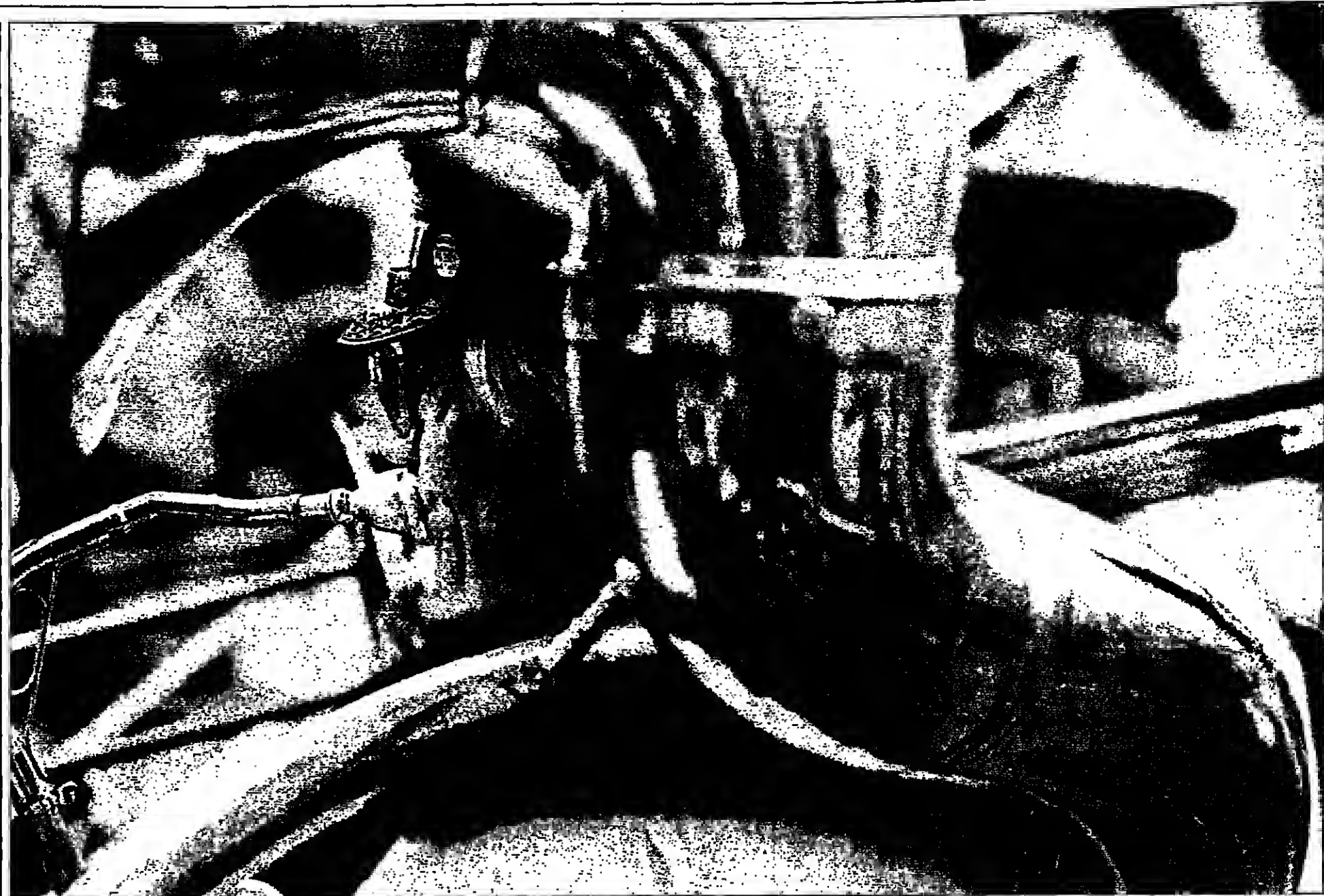
Yesterday, in a room above Glen's public bar in Bathgate, Mr Dalyell defended himself against criticism from members of his party general management committee. Most are pro-home rule and "fed up" with the attention paid to their MP, however no disciplinary action was called for, according to secretary Jim Swan.

A leading critic is Heather Smart, vice-chairman of the CLP and office manager for Scotland Forward, the umbrella group leading the Yes campaign. "Tam has been a great constituency MP but the party is divided from him on this one," Ms Smart said. Mr Dalyell is set to cause more controversy with a letter he sent Peter Mandelson, challenging the Minister without Portfolio over an assertion that Scotland's role within the UK would be strengthened by home rule.

The claim, made on BBC Radio Scotland, was "quite simply preposterous", Mr Dalyell said. In his letter, he asked if it is conceivable that with 129 politicians in Edinburgh, Scots could continue to enjoy their influence in the Cabinet. The Treasury, Foreign Office, Defence and Transport departments are all headed by Scots MPs and Scots also occupy a disproportionate number of other ministerial posts.

Mr Dalyell also disputed Mr Mandelson's claim that the vast proportion of the UK population supported a Scottish Parliament.

While insisting he was "not one of the anti-Mandelson brigade", he added: "If Peter is going to mind the shop while the Prime Minister is away, I am going to challenge claims that I regard as just plain silly."



Easy does it: The Adamant New Orleans Parade Band were one of the big attractions at this weekend's Brecon Jazz Festival, which drew 50,000 visitors. Photograph: Rob Stratton

Unionist fury at prison hint

Jojo Mayes

Unionist politicians attacked Ms Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday, after she appeared to hint at a possible early release of terrorist prisoners, a key item on Sinn Féin's agenda, if the IRA ceasefire holds.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, said it was "damning" of Ms Mowlam to "talk the IRA's language when she has yet to decide that the ceasefire is genuine".



Under fire again: Ms Mowlam, who has angered Unionists

He accused Ms Mowlam of "surrendering to IRA blackmail" to give her the six weeks she needs to get them into the negotiations.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said Ms

Mowlam had bought an IRA ceasefire and would constantly have to pay the price in concessions to keep it going.

"The Secretary of State has put herself in a position where she will constantly be pressured by the IRA to pay for peace," he said.

Ms Mowlam boasted the idea of early releases in an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*. She said she was not yet ready to discuss demands for prisoners to be released, but added: "as the ceasefire holds, other options become possible".

But a Northern Ireland Office spokesman said the Government was not yet considering the early release of terrorist prisoners. "It's an important issue and one that, as the talks process goes on, I'm sure will be up for discussion, but we're not looking at it now," he said.

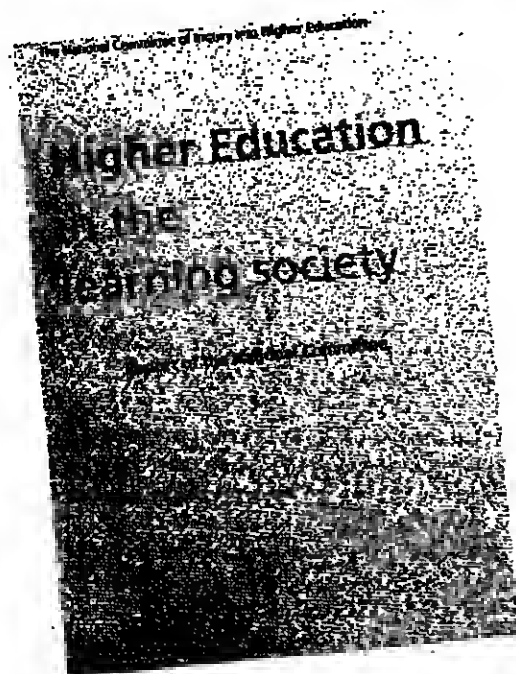
The early release and transfer of political prisoners forms a key part of the "introductory document" presented to Ms Mowlam by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, when they met for preliminary talks at Stormont last week.

Sinn Féin wants the immediate return to Ireland of 20 prisoners held in jails in England and then the release of them and others. Early releases were made after the last ceasefire by reintroducing a policy of 50 per cent remission, which had been

abandoned some years before.

That level of remission remains. Ms Mowlam will decide at the end of the month whether the IRA ceasefire is genuine, and whether Sinn Féin will be invited to join the multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland on September 15.

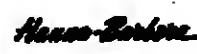
Meanwhile, nationalists marched yesterday to mark the 26th anniversary of internment, the policy of imprisonment of suspects without trial, less than 24 hours after loyalists clashed with police at the end of the annual Apprentice Boys parade in Londonderry.



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DAILY POEM

Dog

By R Ranganathan

The Brahmin in the house opposite ours
Eats late, and tosses
His loaf on the street.
For that scrap,
Two dogs tear each other apart
In the deserted street. Their howls
Wake up dogs sleeping elsewhere
In town. Others, in distant streets.
Follow. Even dogs, in the outskirts.
Jump into the fry. The noise travels -
Beyond the rice-fields and orchards.
Dogs in the next town take it up.
It's an endless chain. However,
If one were to stop and ask
The last dog the cause of it all,
I wonder what he would have to say.

This week's Daily Poems all come from the latest issue of the *London Magazine* (£7.95), edited by Alan Ross. Celebrating 50 years of Indian independence, it embraces new fiction, verse, essays, photographs and reviews. Subscriptions to the *London Magazine*, £28.50 a year, from 30 Thurloe Place, London SW7.

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Solutions for a small planet

When a plane full of young families crashes into the side of a hill, as Korean Air flight 801 did last week on the American island of Guam, it is vain to look for a silver lining. But for the Governor of Guam, Carl TC Gutierrez, some good has come out of the tragedy.

With an area smaller than that of the Isle of Man, the governor's domain is not traditionally a launch pad to fame, but in the days after the crash he became a ubiquitous presence on television screens around the world. After the plane crashed last Wednesday, the governor was one of the first on the scene. "After pulling several survivors from the wreckage," reported the *Pacific Daily News*, "Gutiérrez came across an 11-year-old Japanese girl ... Matsuda Rika ... Tears welled up in the governor's eyes as he explained how Rika kept asking him to save her mother."

Mrs Matsuda was dead, but Mr Gutierrez invited Rika and her father to stay in his residence. At the media centre near the crash site, his cousin, Franklin Gutierrez, handed out biographies of the governor. The afternoon after the crash, Mr Gutierrez appeared again before the cameras, arm draped around the little girl.

Many islanders feel he has exploited the crash. One fireman, Jesus C Taitingfong, said his crew were forced to the side of the road by police so that the governor could get to the crash before them.

Tourist brochures depict Guam as an island paradise, but politically it seethes. The last governor but one, Ricardo Bordallo, shot himself following his trial for corruption. The present governor is up for re-election next year. It would be a remarkable politician who declined the photo-opportunities afforded by the plane crash, but Mr Gutierrez appears to have gone too far. "The people know who did the job in the rescue," said Mr Jaimefong.

Old enemies reshape Middle East

Robert Fisk in Damascus on the surprise pact that will link Syria with Iraq and Iran



While Israel strengthens its military alliance with Turkey, President Hafez al-Assad has embarked on a remarkable rapprochement with his old adversary Iraq, re-opening border posts, exchanging trade delegations and closing down the anti-Saddam radio station from which Iraqi dissidents broadcast to Baghdad from Damascus.

Iran, Syria's most important strategic ally in the Muslim world, has approved of President Assad's decision, which may reopen the land route between Damascus and Tehran—at its shortest distance, a mere 300 miles. Already, cars with Syrian registration plates are cir-

'It is telling the US and Israel that Syria will not remain inactive in the face of pressure'

culating in Baghdad, and at a recent trade fair in the Iraqi capital the portraits of President Assad and President Saddam Hussein stood alongside one other.

It is not difficult to understand why President Assad has chosen to take so extraordinary a step after 17 years of frozen relations between the warring Baath parties of Damascus and Baghdad. Syria is deeply concerned not only by Israel's military co-operation with Turkey but by Turkey's newly constructed "security zone" inside northern Iraq, an area of occupation con-

trolled – according to Syrian officials – by at least 20,000 Turkish troops. Israeli aircraft are already permitted by Turkey to fly along Syria's northern border and could conceivably fly over the Turkish "security zone" to the north-east of Syria.

In another Middle East war, President Assad could thus face his Israeli enemy on three fronts – to the south, along Golan and in southern Lebanon; to the north, along his frontier with Turkey; and on his north-eastern flank, along the Turkish border. He does not even rule out a Turkish military incursion over the Syrian border ostensibly to search for Kurdish guerrillas – in the event of another Syrian-Israeli war. The re-opening of economic relations with Iraq is thus a response to the Israeli-Turkish alliance, effectively opening a Syrian bridgehead eastwards to Iran.

During his recent visit to Tehran, both President Assad and the new Iranian president, Sayed Mobamed Khatemi, agreed the territorial integrity of Iraq must be preserved; they also regarded the Israeli military relationship with Turkey as a threat to the security of Iran as well as Syria.

In time of war — though neither side have said as much — Iran may be able to send military materiel to Syria by land, with the compliance of Baghdad; the shortest land route between the Syrian-Iraqi frontier at Al-Thaneif and the Iraqi-Iranian control post at Qasr Shirin is only 300 miles.

But President Assad, who is taking care not to break UN sanctions against Iraq, has refrained from renewing political relations with Baghdad. There have been no talks between the two rival Baath parties and no meetings have been arranged

between senior officers in the Syrian and Iraqi party commands; in other words, Saddam's regime itself is not receiving any support from Damascus. Syrian officials stress that humanitarianism concern underpins their efforts to help the Iraqi population to withstand UN sanctions. Diplomatic contacts were only

recovered last year when a Syrian diplomat in Tehran, Mohamed Khoder, was instructed to attend a party given by the Iraqi chargé d'affaires in Tehran, Saleh Nouri Sarmad.

Theo on 19 May this year, Rafeh al-Shellah, the president of the Syrian chambers of commerce federation, led an economic delegation to Baghdad,

signing contracts worth an estimated £9.5m. On 13 June it was the turn of Zubair Yunis, Mr Shallah's Iraqi opposite number, to head a 37-man delegation to Damascus; Syria promised to provide Iraq with £628,000 worth of medicine – the first Syrian trucks carrying medical supplies crossed the border on 10 July – and reportedly agreed to

restore the telephone lines that had been cut between the two countries for 17 years.

A week later, the portraits of Hafez Assad and Saddam Hussein were raised next to each other at a Syrian medical equipment exhibition in Baghdad. Saddam's picture will also be displayed when the Iraqis are allowed - for the first time in

Monumental change: The deal between President Saddam and his old enemy, President Assad (far left) marks a thaw after 17 years of frozen relations
Main photograph: AP

more than a decade-and-a-half - to open a stand at the Damascus international trade fair later this month. At the same time, Saddam Hussein closed down the anti-Assad Voice of Arab Syria radio station run by Amin Hafez in Baghdad; a little later, Syria shut the anti-Saddam Voice of Free Iraq radio in Damascus, whose broadcasts had already muted their hatred for the Iraqi regime to little more than music and discussion programmes.

According to the Syrians, their own businessmen initiated the new trade with Iraq in an effort to relieve Iraqi poverty. "The Iraqis were discussing their suffering with some Syrian merchants and asked them 'why is Syria punishing Iraqis as a people?' - and that is how we came to send a delegation to Baghdad," Mohamed Salman, the Syrian minister of information, told *The Independent*.

Theo Dr Al-Shehall headed a group of Syrian merchants on a visit to Baghdad. ... In this, Iraq requested the UN to allow it to open a (rough) passage to Syria, like the one goes with Turkey and Jordan. So the commercial deals will be confirmed to the rules of the UN security council's decision - food for oil.

Punishing Iraq was "hurting the Iraqi people more than their government", Mr Salman said. "But there are no political relations between Syria and Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq - even the (Arab) Gulf states - deal with Iraq on only the economic level. Dealing with Iraq on a popular level is different from doing so on a political level. I assure you that, till now [sic], there is no formal relationship with Iraq," said Mr Salman.

Informal it may be, but a message nonetheless to the United States as well as Israel that Syria is not going to remain inactive in the face of political pressure. President Assad's assertion that Syria will never accept Israel's refusal to hand back the occupied Syrian Golan Heights — "we won't give up a single Golan tree," he told the Iranians last month — has once been augmented by a new relationship in the Arab world which will link Damascus, Baghdad and Tehran.

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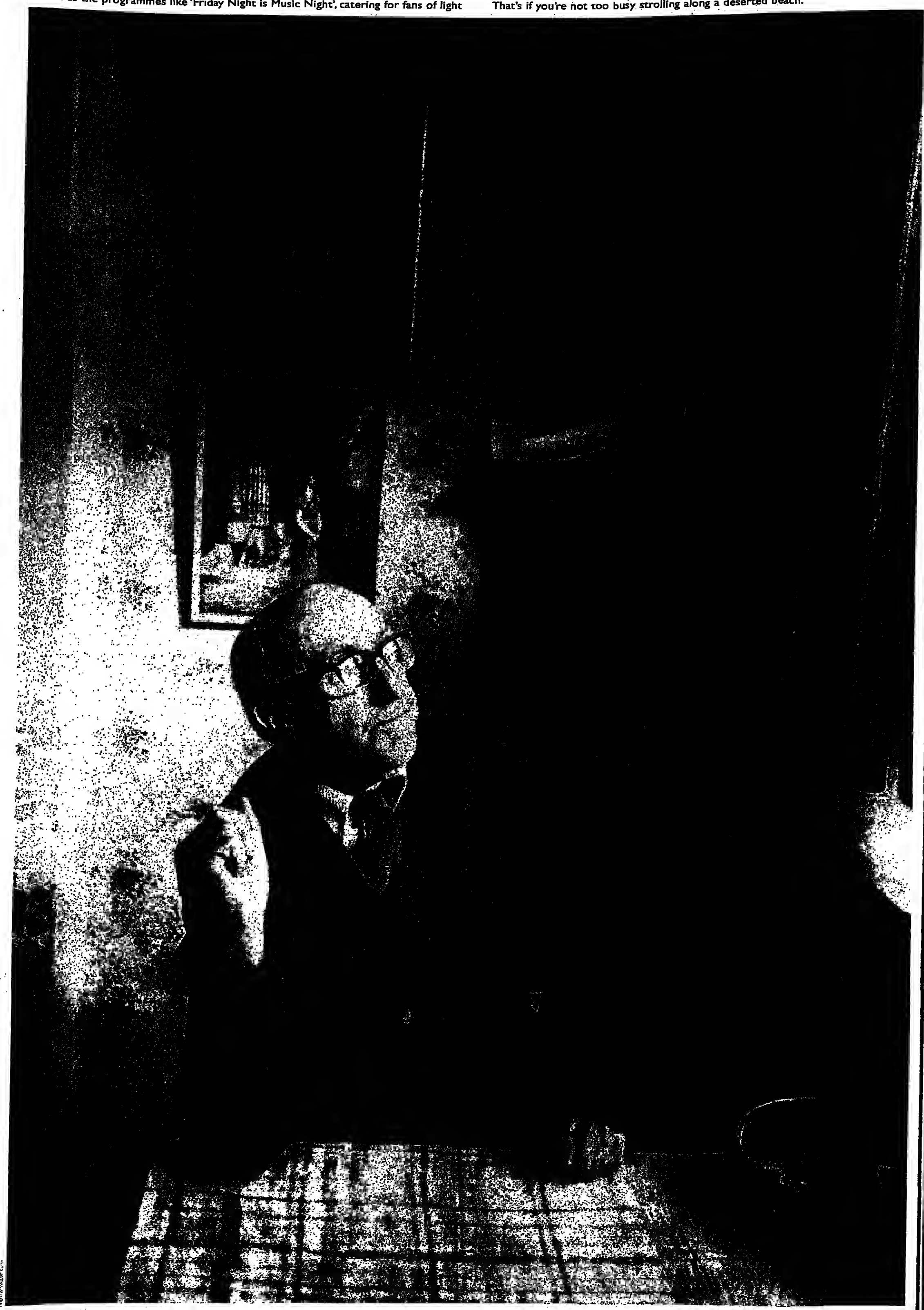
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Dear Leader keeps N Korea in dark over peace

On the day after the historic preliminary Korean peace talks broke down in New York last Friday, the North Korean regime chose to inform its people that Kim Jong Il, the "Dear Leader" and son of the deceased Kim Il Sung, had visited a military circus. Not a word was uttered about the talks having taken place.

In the surreal world of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, circuses are more important than the gruesome reality of what is happening to a nation sliding into a level of poverty and deprivation seen nowhere else in Asia.

However, the ruling Workers' Party newspaper, the *Rodong Sinmun*, obliquely referred to the talks over the weekend by publishing a commentary under the banner headline "Responsibility Cannot be Avoided", in which it made clear that North Korea was still no a war footing with the South.

The military confrontation

Stephen Vines in Pyongyang finds the Stalinist state still ready for war

between North and South is becoming more tense," said the commentary, placing the blame on the Americans "for inciting the South Korean puppet towards confrontation between North and South".

The paper, the authoritative voice of the regime, demanded that the talks take place solely between North Korea and the United States, as the South was "just the servants of the

Americans". America was told also to withdraw its troops.

Although the paper did not say so, these are the reasons why the talks about talks broke down, through another session may commence this Friday. The very existence of the talks is a breakthrough as there have been no substantive discussions on a North-South peace agreement since the 1953 armistice agreement which set the division

of the country in concrete. The participation of China, alongside the US, is another sign of the serious nature of the discussions. Since the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, China has been North Korea's sole political and economic ally of consequence.

The regime in the North, now seemingly under the control of Kim Jong Il, although he has not inherited his father's titles of

President and party leader, is doing nothing to prepare its population for a change of circumstances. The state-controlled media continue to shriek about the "US war-maniacs" and warn its people to be prepared for war. All office and factory workers still take part in daily air raid preparation exercises.

A visit last week to the demilitarized zone at Panmunjom,

which separates North and South, was accompanied by constant warnings of the possibility of attack at any time. The intrusive accompaniment of military officers was said to be for the visitor's "protection". "We are on a state of high alert", said one. Much of this is propaganda but only a fortnight ago shots were exchanged.

Although North Korea is suffering from possibly the worst famine in its history, the army appears well fed and to

have fuel for its vehicles. While the rest of the country has ground to a virtual halt, the army still seems to be receiving weapons and the means to maintain them.

The regime knows it cannot feed its people and needs to open its doors to the international community, but in the tinnal community, but in the paranoid, secretive world of North Korean politics, it cannot bring itself to swallow the compromises required to stave off the crisis.

Images of the gulag that today's Russia wants to forget



Mary Dejevsky meets the artist dissident ignored in his homeland

Washington — There is much here that is reminiscent of the bad old days: a Russian artist, a one-time prisoner of Stalin's Gulag, is in the capital of the United States to present his work — and his case — to a more receptive audience than the one he finds at home.

His pictures are exhibited in one of the more elegant halls of the Capitol. He is lionised, albeit in a small and quiet way, by some of the same Cold-warriors who once supported the Soviet dissidents. But this is a story with a distinctly post-Cold War twist.

Nikolai Getman, an animated gentleman in his late seventies, who turns up for our meeting in turkish shirts and professes his surprised delight in the elegance and greenness of Washington, has no fear for his life.

There is no risk in his meeting a Western journalist, and no one will cancel his citizenship for exhibiting abroad. He is free to return to his home in the central Russian city of Orel whenever he likes.

But Getman, who had problems aplenty in the Soviet era, finds himself in a typically post-Soviet dilemma. After a brief period in the late Eighties and early Nineties when delving into Russia's inglorious past was all the fashion, he finds himself in what might be called the "Solzhenitsyn trap".

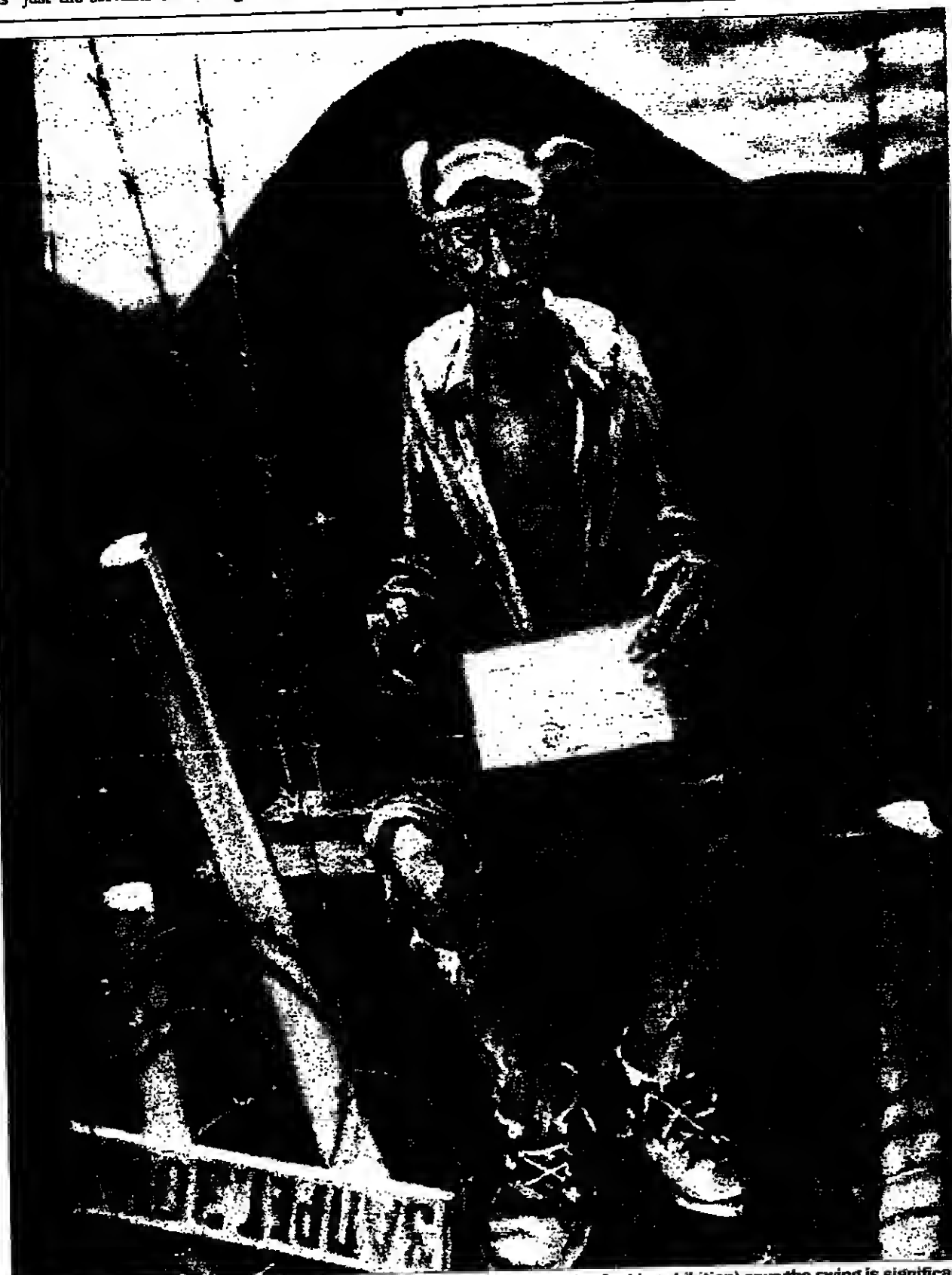
Today's Russia is rushing ahead fast and furiously. The quickest are making money hand over fist; everyone else is working just to stay afloat, and no one has the time or inclination to dwell on what was.

For Getman, this is a bitter disappointment. In 1989, after much soul-searching, he invited two trusted friends around to see some of his pictures. These were not the pictures for which he was known; not the confessional pictures he painted after his release from the Siberian labour camp in the Fifties and Sixties, nor the landscapes with birch trees to which he graduated.

They were part of an oeuvre he has now pronounced, at 50 pictures, to be complete. It is a set of oil paintings depicting scenes from daily life and death at the arctic camps of Kolyma, where he was detained from 1946 to 1953.

Getman was one of those Russians who, as he puts it, "fought the Nazis to defend Soviet power and that same Soviet power put me behind bars". Barely demobbed, he was picked up one day at his father's flat in Dnepropetrovsk, and accused of participating in drawing an irreverent sketch on a cigarette paper at a local cafe. He was sentenced to 10 years' hard labour.

The pictures, all painted from memory and in great secrecy



Nikolai Getman's *The One You Have*. The artist, (above left with the poster for his exhibition) says the swing is significant: "You understand, even after release, everything is insecure, unstable, it could give way at any moment"

(their premature discovery could have sent him right back to Kolyma) were completed over the next 40 years.

"I have accomplished my civic duty," he says, to record what happened. He would have several in progress at once; there were no drafts. He painted directly on to the canvas from the complete images he saw in his nightmares. While there is a solid corpus of camp literature; his work constitutes a rare pictorial archive.

The paintings exhibited in Washington, 15 of the 50, have a surprising amount of colour. There were limits, said a representative of the Jamestown Foundation which sponsored his exhibition, to what could be displayed on Congressional premises. The more sombre and horrifying would not be deemed suitable for the children who might pass through the hall,

which is open to the public.

But the 15 were sombre enough, and each told a tale. In one, *The One You Have*, a released prisoner holds his *svyazka* — the document that guarantees the restoration of his civic rights. But he is depicted on a swing: "You understand, even after release, everything is insecure, unstable, it could give way at any moment," explains the artist. Another shows the distribution of rations, depicting the prisoner who hands out the uneven chunks of bread with his back to the recipients, while another prisoner calls the names — a system that the prisoners themselves devised to prevent favouritism.

Getman is frank about what he calls his "miraculous good fortune" in the camps. A warder noticed that his documents described his profession as "artist". He got him to design

a rug for his wife. Getman was transferred to light work.

Later, other work around the camp was noticed by a visiting inspector, and he was transferred to a camp with a less stringent regime. But he served his full term, curtailed only slightly for good behaviour.

After he plucked up courage to invite his two friends to look at his pictures, it took another four years before he dared show them to anyone else.

Finally, in 1993, he was able to hold an exhibition in Orel. But he still had a fight to have the poster say that he was "a former Gulag prisoner". (He won that battle.)

Thereafter, however, there seemed no prospect of finding a permanent home for the works. Control of the local authority remained with the Communists.

Getman said that people —

camp survivors — would beg him to record what he had seen.

"Sometimes, someone who was so ill they can barely move their lips, would plead with me to draw what I saw." A few individuals asked for a picture, but Getman wanted to keep them together.

He preferred to go through the bureaucratic obstacle course of taking them out of Russia and transporting them half-way across the world to a place where, even if a permanent exhibition is not possible, there is at least sympathy, interest, and appropriate storage.

And the Jamestown Foundation, which existed to fund and settle emigre dissidents during the Cold War, finds itself responsible for a victim of history of a different sort: a corpus of work depicting the past that today's Russia wants to forget.

Volcano isle braces for final blast

Phil Davison
Montserrat

Thousands of people still left on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, now living amid a thick layer of ash and increasingly short of food, braced themselves yesterday for what could be the biggest eruption so far of the Soufriere volcano.

The local government and scientists said the worst earth tremors so far had been detected from inside the crater, heralding a major blast.

The fact that the volcano did not blow on Saturday for the first time after a week of regular 12-hourly eruptions suggests that the next eruption may be even worse than that of 25 June, which left around 20 people dead or missing.

In the hillside settlement of Flemmings, in the danger zone which is supposed to be evacuated when a siren wails, residents battled yesterday to clean grey ash from roofs, drains and inside their homes. Though in direct line of sight of the crater, many refuse to abandon their homes when the siren goes off.

"Don't pack your bags, just run, run, run to the north," goes a popular song played throughout the day on Radio Montserrat. "Black ash, run. White ash,

run. Red ash, run." The radio tries to keep people's spirits up with upbeat volcano-related songs, interrupted only by routine death announcements and twice-daily volcano reports from British and Caribbean scientists. Across a ravine from Flemmings, in the village of Salem, Rastafarian youths, refugees and others sit on the steps of what they call the "Action House", because that is where they can watch the best "volcano action", that is, have a fine view of the crater.

Gazing up towards the crater, most wear surgical masks or military-style gas masks on account of the ash drifting through the air.

In the Desert Storm bar, a wooden shack "rum house", the manager, Larry Skerrett, said he feared for the state of the islanders' beloved Sturge Park cricket ground, believed to be under ash in the abandoned capital, Plymouth.

The ash is also killing the island's plants, making fruit and vegetables increasingly scarce. Refugees, sharing other families' homes or sleeping in tents or churches, complain of worsening hunger. Though strict, they wonder why more vessels are not bringing food aid via the safe, northern part of the island.

significant shorts

Tajik foes deploy tanks as war rages in capital

President Imomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan called an emergency session of his security council after a new outbreak of fighting. Fighting flared again yesterday morning after clashes involving tanks and several armed factions in the outskirts of Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe on Saturday. The council was also considering an appeal to the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to deploy peace-keepers in guard strategic sites in Dushanbe.

AP — Dushanbe

Taiwanese air crash kills 16

A Taiwanese domestic airliner hit a mountain yesterday, killing all 16 people on board. It was the second deadly crash in the Matsu island group in 16 months. The Forpasa Airlines plane crashed after a 50-minute flight from Taipei to the heavily garrisoned island just off the coast of China. State radio said the plane hurtled into flames. Military rescuers said they put out the flames in about an hour and recovered the bodies of passengers and crew, most charred almost beyond recognition.

AP — Taipei

Fare feud ends in death

An off-duty Brazilian policeman killed a bus driver for refusing to let him ride for free because he was not in uniform. Cleber Ricardo shot Reinaldo Correia four times after an argument over whether Ricardo should have to pay his fare.

Reuters — Sao Paulo

Chinese baby boom

A growing number of Americans are paying \$3,000 (£1,870) to adopt Chinese orphan baby girls. The *Sunday Morning Post* of Hong Kong said the US consulate in the south Chinese city of Guangzhou had set up an adoption unit to handle the babies' immigration applications. More than 3,300 infants from China were expected to be adopted by US citizens this year.

Reuters — Hong Kong

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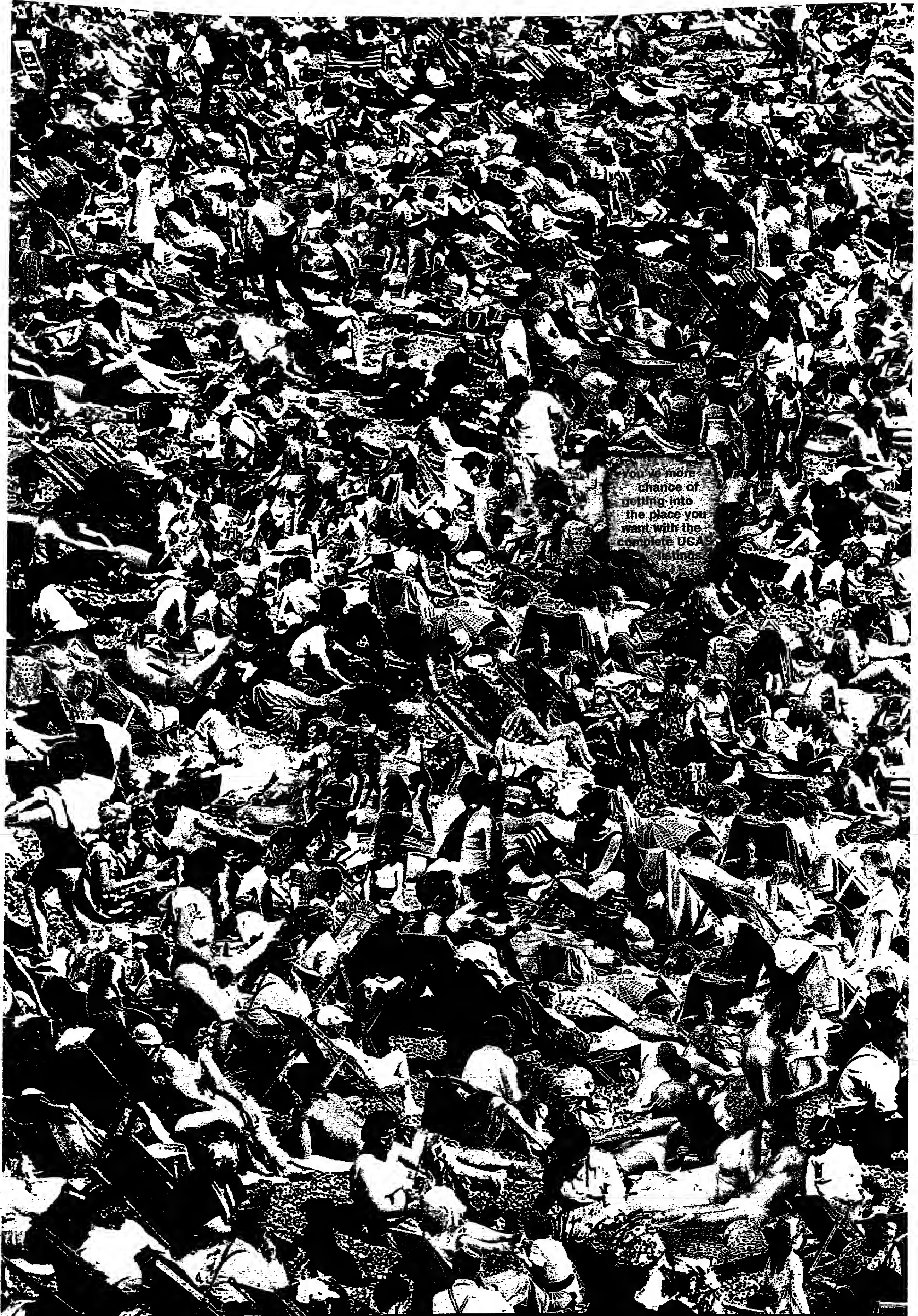
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The queen of horror, acting out a lifetime's dread

The Monday Interview

INGRID PITT

Childhood experiences in a concentration camp gave the German-born actress and vampire par excellence a very real insight into terror. Andrew G Marshall hears her extraordinary life story and about her continuing battle to conquer the demons of her past

"My whole life is horror. I'm the Queen of Horror." Ingrid Pitt is not just describing her career as a vampire in many of the classic Hammer Horror movies; she is referring to a childhood too terrible to be shown on the screen. Her family came from Berlin and when Hitler came to power her father, a scientist, refused to turn his skills to destroying England - a country he had once lived in and loved. As enemies of the Reich, Ingrid's family were hunted, and imprisoned in a series of concentration camps until the end of the war.

"The Russian Army was coming, so our camp, Stutthof in Poland, had to be moved, or liquidated, as they called it. We were marched into the gas chamber and I remember my mother holding me so tight. I don't know if it was luck or destiny, but we survived. I was eight."

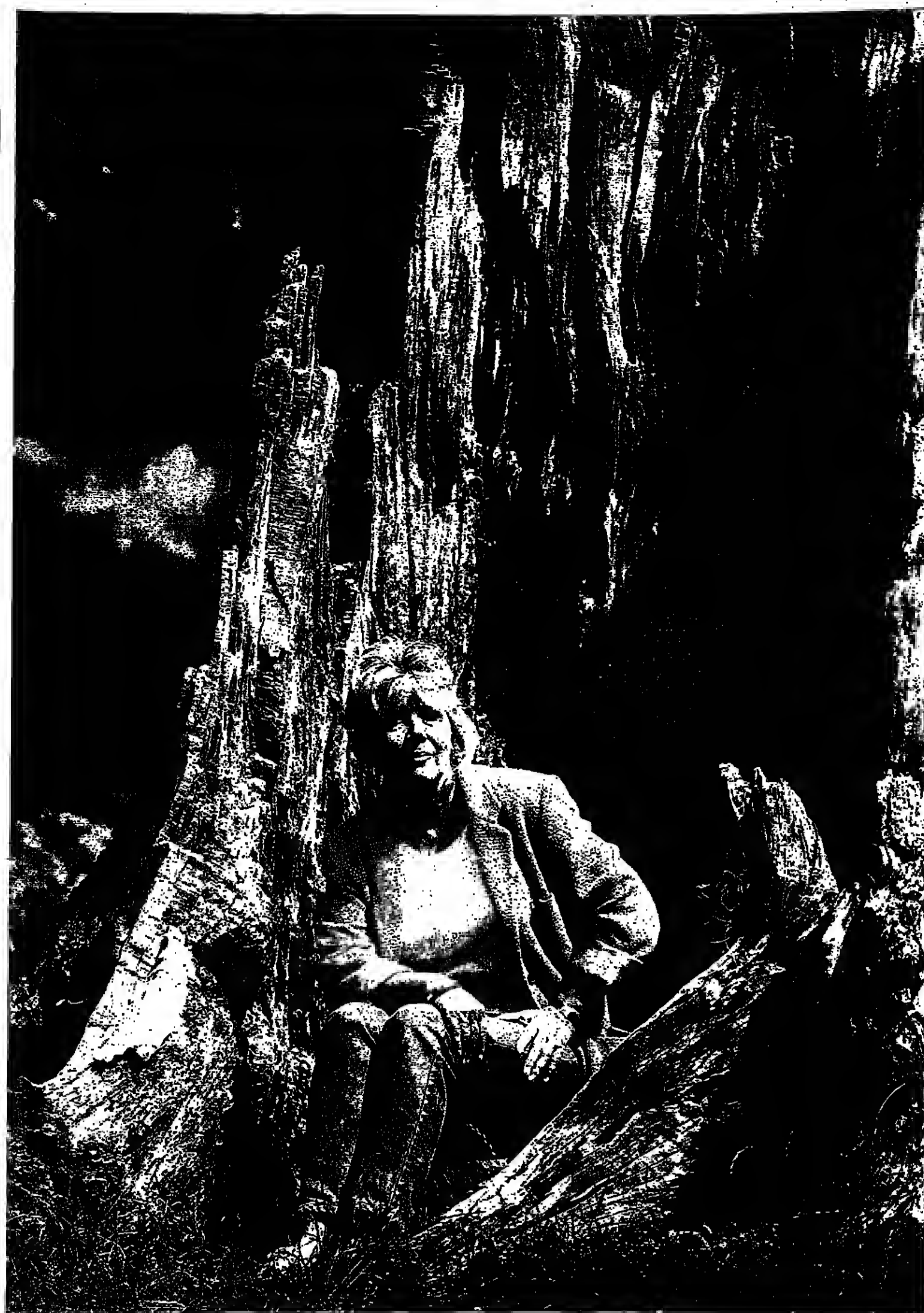
"A Jehovah's Witness told me, 'you will survive but tomorrow I will be dead,' and she was right. Why didn't the gas chamber work? We must have been in there for hours, because when we went in there it was dark and when we came out it was dark again - so a whole day must have passed. It was a miracle that they opened the door, because we could have just stayed there, and they could have all gone. Nobody could have opened it from the inside."

"The Russian fighter planes started firing at the rabble of prisoners rather than their guards. It was absurd. I've learnt to fly myself, and I know what you can see on the ground. It was completely horrifying, and everybody died for the ditches. My mother lay on top of me and I honestly thought she had been shot dead, and started to worry about what I was going to do. Lo and behold, when everybody had gone and it was getting dark, she got up, pulled me up, and walked into the forest. Incredible. Maybe that's why I love forests so much."

"We came across a group of partisans, which was bad because they often killed people who came from the camps. It was always unmistakable that you came from the camps. Yet again my mother was brave, and persuaded them to help us. I remember this young boy so well; he had a gun and it was almost as big as he was, and along with him was this older man. They led us to their camp. We didn't know if we would survive or not because they all talked in all kinds of foreign languages, and my mother only understood bits here and there."

The partisans decided to let Ingrid and her mother stay. Looking back, her childhood seems to have begun in the forest. An older boy became her friend and protector, and they explored the forest together. Her mother taught her to read and write, using little pieces of chalk to write on a wooden table.

"One day, I remember, we found a British plane that had been shot down near our camp. Only one of the crew had survived. The partisans helped him back to the camp because he had broken his legs. He taught me to sing 'Land of Hope and Glory', and that is when my passion for the round circle with the dot in the middle began. When I see the RAF emblem I feel safe. We also got this radio out of the plane and made it work, although only for a little while; suddenly a great voice talking in English about the Huo boomed out. My mother spoke very good English and told the partisans that the voice belonged to Churchill, that the frock was



Escape from the nightmare: left, Ingrid Pitt, today, in Richmond Park, and, above, in 'The Vampire Lovers', 1970
Main photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

"After finishing that film, I sat in the London Hilton thinking about having to leave England. It was early morning, and I had to pack my suitcase to go to the airport. I looked down from my hay window at the red buses, the black cabs and the Horse Guards riding into Hyde Park, and I sat there weeping, tears falling down my face, and then came the boog, bong of Big Ben. I knew I could never leave England. I had an agent in America who had all sorts of jobs lined up for me but I didn't go. Could I get a job here? Could I get an agent? Awful, but I didn't care. I was happy here, and I was going to stay in the land of Spitfires and cricket. I'm a stupid and obstinate woman."

"It's amazing how even a small event from your past can influence your whole future. It was wonderful for my child to grow up here, and if I'd left I'd never have met my husband. I would have had almost no empty life, because a life without love is an empty life, career or no career."

There were only two choices for movies in the Seventies in England: pornography and horror. "I didn't want to take my clothes off, so I became a vampire. The scripts were very good, and they've now become cult pictures. It is divine, because people just love them; it reconfirms me and it keeps me alive for ever - like the vampires I play. When I meet people they do not recoil in horror about how I've aged; quite the opposite: they say wonderful things, and I let them lie to me as much as they like. They see a 30-year-old film and somehow they see me as I was then. So loving and kind. I've never met a weird horror movie fan."

When acting slowed up, Ingrid Pitt turned to writing, and has published several books, including *Katrina*, which is based on her childhood experiences. She is currently working on *Ingrid Pitt's Bedside Companion for Vampire Lovers*, and a movie that she wrote has just gone into production.

The second chapter of her life has definitely been a triumph over the first, but could she be said ever to have recovered from such nightmares? The modern answer would be intensive counselling to confront the past, but after the Second World War people just tried to forget. Ingrid has never met another concentration camp victim, and she seldom talks about the past - this is the first time she has done so to a newspaper journalist - because remembering is just too painful.

Although she would never consider undergoing counselling, she has developed her own strategy that resembles the latest vogue, cognitive therapy, which teaches how to replace painful thoughts with positive ones.

"My little great-niece Lola, whom I look after three days a week, thinks that all planes are Spitfires because I told her about them. She can't tell yet that a 747 is not like a Spitfire. I take her into the forest and teach her about trees, sunshine and flowers. When I see Lola walking with my husband, his big fingers holding her little hands, it is so funny. For every one step he takes, she takes three. When she sits on his lap it's like a time-war - it could be my father and me. Somebody at her school picnic wanted to tear flowers off the stalks. 'No, you can't do that, they will die,' she cried. That's me, you know."

"My bedroom has a massive window with trees all around. When I put Lola down for her afternoon nap, she likes to lie on the bed and look at those trees. I always say, 'Look at them waving; they are all whispering, so they don't keep you from sleeping. They're saying, 'Hi Lola, we'll stand here, and when you wake up we'll tell you a story.' So I have to make up a story for the trees. There's a small birch wood in Richmond Park, close to where I live; it reminds me of that forest in Poland. I often go there and feel the peace."

Deborah Ross is on holiday

moving in and that the Nazis were going to be annihilated. Next came this sound which has followed me around for ever, and has influenced my whole life completely, especially my career. It was bong, bong - it was Big Ben."

Nine months after the war finished, Ingrid and her mother were found by the Red Cross, and not a moment too soon. Her mother was dangerously ill with typhus and Ingrid had TB. After many months' treatment in hospital, they felt strong enough to begin their search for Ingrid's father. It took them a year of walking round all the displaced persons' camps before they finally located him in a cellar in Berlin.

"I knew such a strong, proud father. He was in the first Olympics in 1896: he rowed and was a fantastic athlete. But he'd been sent to special camp for all the intellectuals, so when we found him he looked like a little old man - all thin and bent. I

did have a few years with him. I always sat on his lap on the balcony and looked at all the trees."

The family were able to reclaim their house in Berlin, which had been confiscated during the war and was now on the east side of the city. Ingrid went to school for the first time, although she would much rather have stayed at home with her father. Her original ambition was to become a doctor. However, studying medicine was too painful; unable to dissect rats, or to cope with the misery of illness, she decided to become an actress. "I tried to get away from reality by imagining I was somebody else, somewhere else."

She trained with the Berlin Ensemble, founded by Bertolt Brecht. After she had criticised the authorities in East Berlin, police were sent to the theatre to arrest her. They were persuaded to wait until the final curtain, which allowed her time to

escape across the border to the West, and eventually to the United States.

In America, Ingrid studied with Lee Strasberg, who was very happy with her portrayal of horror. "When I was in his class he would say, 'Look, she's doing it really.' I used to think he was a prat. He used to make us take off our clothes to lose our inhibitions, and we had a violent argument. He screamed at me, and I can't hear people shouting because it reminds me of the Nazis who ordered us around in the concentration camp."

She played minor parts on television, but her career was idling until a conversation that took place over a game of poker with John Wayne. He told her about a part that was going in a movie adaptation of a book by Alistair MacLean, *Where Eagles Dare*. It was winning the part of Heidi, a double agent, that brought Ingrid to Britain for the first time.

Embarrass your children, and have a nice day

It is one of the rules of life that parents are embarrassing to their children. There are a few years where this is not so: no baby has sued its mother for the trauma of being breast-fed in a public place - yet. But by the age of five children can clock the fact that everyone else's mother does not drive around in her nightgown, and other fathers do not dance the watusi at the drop of a drumbeat. Sooo any sign of originality from a parent is cause for much rolling of the eyes and shrugging of the shoulders.

Sometimes, however, merely embarrassing parental behaviour can mutate into something truly excruciating. It can be anything. In my father's case it was a dreadful bobble hat that he took to wearing in public so often that I finally had to take matters into my own hands.

In my own case the problem (as my children see it at least) is that I believe in customer service. Not that I believe in it, but sometimes I actually only do it for obvious reasons, but also request it. I do this for obvious reasons, but also so that the children can learn how to do it. After

all, I announce - not for the first time - no one ever seemed to feel shy about demanding that I serve them with a smile when I was a waitress.

The topic of my career as a waitress at the Palm Café in a small town on America's West Coast is one that I particularly warm to as we sit in some corner of a restaurant waiting for someone - anyone - to notice our existence. "I would have been fired for this," I note, perhaps a bit loudly. I paint a picture of the Palm: there was a swordfish on the wall, home-made lemon meringue pie in the cooler and a chef who was always just one order away from exploding. My job was to run around like a maniac trying to please customers who made Victor Meldrew look cuddly. (I skip over my phase of pouring coffee over the most irritating ones. Why wreck a good moral tale?)

My eyes get a little misty, and it's hard to tell when exactly the children glaze over. I usually end with a rousing explanation of how the Eastern Bloc's inability to understand good service was a contributing factor in the fall of the Berlin Wall.



Ann Treneman

The children unglaze the moment I say it is time to talk to the manager. They are terrified of the very idea. After all, they have grown up in England and as such have adopted the custom of complaining privately about bad service, only to

smother with "thank yous" the person who eventually arrives. I think this is very strange indeed, and refuse to adapt. Therefore the children have to watch me like a hawk. If I show any sign of wanting something embarrassing - such as adjoining seats on an airline, a refund for wonky curtains, or a menu by 2pm - they beg me not to not make a fuss. Sometimes they actually flee. I react in much the same way as my father did with his bobble hat - I carry on.

Not that it is easy. Recently I entered an estate agent's and found a man staring at his computer screen. I stood; he stared at his screen. He typed a few words and sat back to mull them. I stood. Finally, he looked up. "Can I help you?" he asked. "You already have," I announced, "because I am doing a survey of how long it takes for people like you to acknowledge that a human being may be in front of them." He stared at me and, for a moment, I felt as if I were the one who was crazy. All of this comes to mind because it is the time of year to return to the US West Coast for a visit.

The Palm Café is no more - engulfed by the Westward Ho! bar - and it is also clear that the standard of service in general has slipped of late. Downsizing has taken its toll, and sometimes the cracks do not so much show, as gape.

This being so, it was no real surprise when Jessica at the Holiday Inn declared to me that she had no record of my booking a non-smoking room. "Only smoking ones left," she said. I explained that I had no desire to sleep in an ashtray. Much to my amazement, Jessica loved this comment and spent the next 20 minutes phoning round trying to find another room. "You seem very calm," I said as another phone call got stuck on a pre-recorded loop. "Well, I could get real upset if you wanted me to," she said. I laughed, and suddenly realised that the children were out with me and so there was no need to take it any further.

I merrily told Jessica that the ashtray would suit me just fine and then capped it off with a "Thank you so much!" The children would have been proud indeed.

the leader page

In death we are divided. So much for progress

Before the First World War death rates were a powerful indicator of social conditions, especially in Britain's cities. But today? For the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to worry about mortality tables at the end of the 1990s seems rather eccentric. The nation's vital signs are good. National income continues to grow and the general level of public health to rise. The average man is now a third less likely to die in any given year than in 1950, the average woman a quarter less likely. What better sign of improvement all round than more life itself?

But the latest Rowntree study has looked underneath the aggregates, at death in actual places. It does not seek to deny the general improvement – it couldn't. What it is after is difference. It is not just that there are places where babies are more likely to die than in others, and that in those same places the old, too, are more likely to die younger. What the study finds is that the places where life expectancy is significantly lower than average are the same as they were a generation ago, and probably the same as when the Rowntree family began its inquiries in the Edwardian era. The places at the head of the list are well known: Glasgow, Hackney, Southwark, Manchester, Tower Hamlets. It also includes Rochdale, Oldham, Gateshead and Stirling. They are all different but have in common a greater likelihood that their residents die prematurely.

And the gap between good and bad places seems in recent years to have increased. To report that life in Buckinghamshire and Surrey is more benign than in Greenock or Salford is to note an obvious and seemingly permanent fact of our social geography. But to discover that life, relatively speaking, is getting no better in the latter defies the expectation that a modern society necessarily becomes more homogeneous, and that in the long haul there is a process of convergence.

Today's study by Daniel Dorling at Bristol University is another blow to that confidence. It is an adjunct of Rowntree's recent big study of income difference, and it says loud, clear and incontrovertibly that modern Britain shows disturbing signs of growing inequality. Disturbing, that is, because growing inequality does nothing identifiable for economic growth while it stands as a proxy measure of growth in criminality and widespread educational and social underperformance.

We die unequally. The Rowntree study avoids emotive language. It adjusts death rates for age; its talk of "excess deaths" simply records a statistical phenomenon, that more deaths occur in the bad areas than national averages would predict. But at its heart there is a moral point: it is unfair that a resident of Glasgow is a third more likely to die prematurely than a resident of Bristol. It is even worse that Glaswegian adults had



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a higher mortality rate in the early 1990s than Bristol adults did in the early 1950s. So much for progress.

The point is not that these disparities offend some abstract notion of equality. They certainly do not hinge on the idea that all areas should or can be the same in terms of the life chances they offer residents. They are worrying because they expose social waste. The figures show the squandering of human lives in a society whose real resource – only resource – is its people. They also expose grave failings in public policies, notably for health, meant to guarantee reasonable equality across the country.

Evidence showing why mortality rates are so skewed is at hand. High death rates are closely associated with position in the league tables for illness, lack of material resources, unemployment. People with jobs tend to live longer. It may not be a very original conclusion but it is inescapable – the more jobs, the more people are encouraged to take those jobs, the healthier everyone will be. These figures for mortality ought to be read and remembered by those economists, city brokers and bankers who are wont to talk about unemployment as a price worth paying. They are also required reading for policy-makers, especially those, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, confronted with demands for more health spending. It's not GPs and hospital appointments that keep people alive (on the average) but people's capacity to look after themselves on the basis of a reasonable, work-derived income.

Chancellor Gordon Brown might say that his welfare-to-work programme is a start, a way of breaking inter-generational patterns of poverty and disease. But it will need to recognise how certain communities are going to need more than sticks and carrots to get people into jobs: they are going to need real employment opportunities within reasonable travelling time.

It would be easy to say, on the basis of the deterioration in mortality in certain areas over the past decade and a half, that all this is a Tory responsibility. That is a charge for the bustings, where argument would also have to recognise that unemployment is continuing to fall, even in those areas worst hit by cuts and closures in the last two recessions. That means, among other things, fewer children growing up in households where nobody works for their living – itself a remarkably powerful predictor of social malaise present and problems to come, the indicator of when we die.

What Labour needs to focus on, as it talks bravely of regional development agencies, is how within a single region

there can be great disparities in mortality rates and economic success between nearby communities. Take the North-west, and the different fates of next-door St Helens and Liverpool. The Rowntree data suggest place does matter. Individual communities appear to have specific characteristics which may help explain their fates. This means there will have to be fierce targeting of spending on health, education, training and jobs.

The sad truth about creativity

Is there an inverse relationship between happiness and creativity? The symphonies of Sibelius were reported yesterday to be what they are because of his tendency to depression. On a different cultural level is the example of Enid Blyton. The child of an unhappy marriage, who in her turn had problems with motherhood, she felt compelled to write fiction about happy children. Now here comes her daughter, telling how Blyton was a driven woman who churned out huge quantities of words to satisfy publishers. But perhaps her characters benefited as a result. Noddy's ceaseless quest to set things right in Toytown; the Five's breathless pursuit of adventure may spring from their creator's stressed state.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to cool the consumer boom

Sir: In defence of a "one-club" approach to economic policy ("Will the doomsters please look at the figures", 8 August), you cite Gavin Davies' argument that, apart from the political differences, any increase in taxes to subdue the current consumer boomlet would need to have been implausibly large and would have been too slow to take effect.

This is certainly correct for income taxes. However, variations in VAT, especially on big ticket items, encourage people to reallocate their expenditure towards times when VAT rates are low; these induced effects on the volume of spending can be large and, furthermore, impinge on spending immediately. Indeed, the Chancellor could have gone so far as to announce a cut in future VAT rates, and it would have had the effect of cooling consumer spending today.

Furthermore, your fashionable (but erroneous) dismissal of the use of fiscal policy to moderate spending in the economy on the grounds that the lags are long and variable, ignores the fact that although interest rates are easily changed, their ultimate impact on the economy is at least as uncertain in magnitude, and the lags are at least as long and variable.

In addition, increases in interest rates empirically have rather little effect on consumer spending – for every mortgage holder made worse off by Thursday's interest rate increase, there is a depositor like me who is today rejoicing in their increased interest income. Rather, the main effect is to depress companies' investment spending by raising the cost of capital, and to reduce net exports by pushing up the pound.

As a result of decisions by this, and more especially the last, government, the Bank of England is now in the unenviable position of having to try to moderate the inflationary effects of a possibly temporary boom in consumer spending, knowing that it will have to reverse its policy stance as the adverse effects of the very tight public spending plans and the high current levels of sterling begin to kick in over the next year or two.

Getting the timing on this right will be no easy matter, but it is not made easier by governments continuing to put all their eggs in one basket.

Professor CHARLES BEAN
London School of Economics and Political Science
London WC2

Sir: Thanks to the latest interest rate rise ("The fourth mortgage rise under Labour", 8 August), our mortgage repayment will now be £100 per month higher. 100 days after I voted for and celebrated a Labour victory.

I'm not really complaining because I'm sure it is a price worth paying for a better government and a less overheated economy, but to have the same effect on my net disposable monthly income, the Chancellor would have had to increase income tax by about 3p in the pound. Had he done so, the money raised could have gone on education, education, or education, or at least on something other than making foreign holidays cheaper and British exports more expensive.

JOHN DAVIES
London SE24



Self-sustaining Army snobbery

Sir: It is silly to deny that social elitism exists in the Army ("Major suspended after class change", 8 August). Between the Household Division, the Cavalry and the rest of the Army the distinction is very class-oriented.

Selection for such regiments is largely based on schools attended, social status and regimental antecedents. Potential candidates are not encouraged from state schools. State school entrants are limited in their choice of regiment (although the range of choice is widening – hence the increasing number of state-educated officers).

It should not therefore come as a surprise that promotion for those restricted to the less socially elite regiments tends to be limited by function, which makes it much more difficult to reach the higher echelons of command. Not that exceptional individuals cannot progress, but the hierarchy tends to be self-perpetuating and that makes promotion more difficult for those who do not belong to, or ape, the conventional image. This problem is compounded in the Army because the reporting and promotion system is closed to the individuals concerned, and is therefore without any chance of redress.

In such an environment it is unlikely that such a thorny problem as self-sustaining snobbery within the Army is ever going to be addressed. That is, unless some foolish individual should raise the subject in public.

PHILIP WILKINSON
Coombe, Wiltshire

Sir: I fully endorse the views expressed by Major Eric Joyce regarding the Army's antiquated and "classist" commissioning policy. Why else was I required to disclose whether I was a day pupil or boarder at school, list the occupations of my family and describe my "military connections" during a recent Army Commissioning Board?

I am sure that many young people, like myself, have no wish to join an organisation that appears content to portray itself as being discriminatory and outdated. Suspending Major Joyce for speaking out against the Army will only serve to confirm such views amongst the public. Is it any wonder that the Army is currently experiencing a recruitment crisis?

PETER G WOOD
Rowton, Cheshire

Children need our attention

Sir: When my children were growing up the school holidays were pure joy. No rushing about first thing in the morning, and then only three or four hours at the end of the day to spend together, but all day long in which to explore and discover the world around us together.

We talked and listened to each other, properly communicated, and learnt a lot from each other and about each other. I watched television programmes with them,

took them to the cinema, theatres, museums, parks, and on walks, played tennis, swam, just sat around with them, read, cooked, even cleaned the house with them, and in this way helped shape their ideas and morals, their values, prejudices, likes and dislikes. I gained much by sharing their interests, fads, musical tastes, and so on, and a new world opened up for me.

No wonder the young Appleys love going to their teacher grandmother, to be stimulated and invigorated ("Honey, I didn't kill the kids today", 7 August). No doubt she shows real interest in them as individuals. Modern parents are sending a very dangerous message to our young people: you are of no interest to me, not important enough to warrant my attention. No wonder our youngsters turn to drugs, anorexia, delinquency and suffer more stress. They are screaming out to be noticed and the adult world is ignoring them.

ARIELLA LISTER
Hatch End
Middlesex

Sir: Diana Appleby writes a paean to the joys of organising every minute of her children's summer holiday until there is no holiday left. What happened to children mooching, passing time, lazy days? Gone in a sea of lessons and classes and activities – school in disguise.

ADRIAN WESTON
Brighton
East Sussex

Death Railway no longer runs

Sir: I hesitate to take issue with the marvellous Thomas Sutcliffe, but my favourite read of the day (Television, 6 August) was disturbed by his contention that the Death Railway in Burma still runs – "it may not have been worth dying for, but it has a continuing use". The line was torn up many years ago, and what I saw earlier this year were haunting gaps in the jungle where the line had been hacked, chasms where bridges had hung. Worse, there is a plan to rebuild part of the line at least – by using Japanese investment money to re-create the railway as a tourist trap. The next-of-kin of British soldiers who died there, some of whom were my companions on this trip, were predictably anguished and outraged. Especially as at the line at the river Kwai they saw only a monument applauding this "feat of Japanese engineering" – the deaths of tens of thousands get no mention.

B F JAMES
London E1

Getting to grips with alcopops

Sir: The Portman Group – which is financed by the seven largest drinks companies in Britain – cannot "crack down on under-age drinking and alcopops" ("Brewers take a fresh look at the alcopops market", 8 August) because it simply has no

powers to regulate the behaviour of errant drinks companies.

Its code of practice is purely voluntary and its so-called "sweeping powers" amount to little more than asking retailers not to stock products which offend against the code. If manufacturers and retailers choose to ignore these appeals to their better natures, they are at liberty to flout the Portman Group's code at will and without fear of facing penalties.

The only realistic way to get to grips with alcopops and loosen the hold they have gained amongst under-age drinkers is for the Government to introduce a statutory code of practice independent body which has real teeth and sanctions founded firmly in law.

MARY-ANN MCKIBBEN
Assistant Director, Alcohol Concern
London SE1

Endless apologies

Sir: On behalf of the Queen ("Amaris massacre dogs Queen's India visit", 4 August), I think we should demand apologies from the following:

1) The Mayor of Rome for the invasion by Roman forces of these islands and their subsequent colonisation for some 400 years.
2) The King of Denmark (and possibly the King of Norway also) for the Viking raids on these coasts during the sixth, seventh and eighth centuries.
3) The regional government of Normandy for the invasion in 1066.
4) The King of Spain for his country's attempted invasion of Great Britain in 1584.

GRANT GREEN
Saffron Walden, Essex

Black actor could play Othello

Sir: The 400-year-old tradition of disguising a white actor for the role of Othello stemmed from the fact that black people were not given the same rights as white people ("Can it be wrong to 'black up' for Othello?", 7 August). A black person would not have been able to play the role due to his position in society and, in later years, due to a prejudiced theatre and film industry.

As David Lister notes "Equity has a disproportionate number of unemployed black actors on its books". If he requires a "powerful argument" against a white actor taking on the role, he should look to the many black actors who could play the part, but are being denied the opportunity.

SYREETA BROWN
Willingdon, Surrey

Sir: David Lister is, perhaps, unaware of the theory that "Othello the Moor" was one of Shakespeare's howlers. According to this theory the play Othello was modelled on the life of a Venetian merchant called Otello Moro, who was white and about whom records exist.

Shakespeare, so the theory goes, did not speak Italian and assumed that the name "Moro" meant that Otello was a Moor. If this had been the case, he might perhaps have been called "Otello il Moro". It is the difference between "John Black" and John the Black.

If this theory is correct, then the answer to Mr Lister's question is "yes, it is wrong to black up for Othello" and it is even more wrong, from the historical point of view, to get a black man to play the part.

C CROFTON-SLEIGH
Rotherfield, East Sussex

Sir: David Lister asks of the role of Othello, "why is a white man singing the role permissible, but acting it beyond the pale?" The answer could lie in the fact that the composer of Othello, Giuseppe Verdi, wrote the part for a tenor voice rather than a bass or baritone. Few, if any, of today's black opera singers possess a tenor voice.

The role requires great stamina, acting ability and an outstanding tenor voice. Few who have seen Plácido Domingo perform this role would doubt that he possesses these qualities in abundance. Perhaps this is why no one ever criticises him.

LINDA BENNETT
Turperry, Cheshire

Those who profit from poverty

Sir: The tale of two poverties told by the employed Robin Basak (Letters, 6 August) and the unemployed Clare Prout (Letters, 8 August) pitches unemployed poverty against employed poverty. Instead of wallowing each other with their shared misfortune they should reflect that they are both underpaid and overtaxed. The beneficiaries of their poverty are the people who are well paid and undertaxed.

The Rev PAUL NICOLSON
Turville, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Clare Prout has not chosen to live off the state. She has chosen to live off Robin Basak.

COLIN LANGWIN
Peymenade
France

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A match made in Mecca – we hope

Dodi Fayed is one of 'us' and he has got hold of the most famous and fêted of all of 'them', writes Fuad Nahdi

The Princess of Wales's continuing fascination with Muslim men invokes conflicting emotions within the British Muslim community. On the one hand, there is apprehension that the dashing Dodi Fayed will do the dirty on Di and leave all Islam and Muslims at the mercy of Britain's out-so-forgiving public opinion. On the other is an inflated sense of pride: you might hate and abuse us on the high streets and in alleyways, but our boys are cruising off with your biggest catches on the high seas.

Dodi Fayed might be the darling of London society, but prior to his flirtation with Diana, Princess of Wales, the 36-year-old with more money than a beard was not exactly a household name among members of the Bradford Council of Mosques. But with a father named Mohammed, he is one of 'us' and he has got the most famous and fêted of 'them'.

A Dodi-Diana union would revolutionise British society. Culture, couture and the British sense of citizenship would change forever. Imran Khan's marriage to Jemima Goldsmith introduced the *shahwar kameez* to both the high class and the high street. Will Diana Fayed (still the Princess of Wales and of Fashion) be responsible for introducing *fuul muddamas* and the *gal-abiyah* to our food and fashion outlets?

On a more serious note, what is it that attracts the *crème de la crème* of Western womanhood to Muslim men? Is it simply realising the fantasy of the tall, dark, handsome stranger (as per 'classic' fiction recommended at most finishing schools)? Of course, Dodi might not exactly fit the bill, but on one's perfect. It does, however, help to have a father who has some change to spare.

Could it be that Muslim men of both the born-again (Imran Khan) and playboy (Dodi) variety offers something that his Occidental counterpart just doesn't have? If anything, Diana and Jemima

What is it that attracts the cream of Western womanhood to Muslim men?

are the epitome of the free spirit; women able to determine the prospects and direction of their lives. Is the message in their action, then, that New Man is unequal to the demands of New Woman?

If so, what are the features that unite Dr Hasnat Khan (the Pakistani surgeon said to be a friend of Diana's), Dodi Fayed and Imran Khan? One is that behind their mesmerising Westernised facades are traditional and opinionated males of the old stock. Strong-willed, family-coated and intrinsically chauvinistic, they are a delicate blend of the excesses of the East and the West. They afford a 'respect' towards the object of their desires no longer available in the Europeanised male.

It has been pointed out that, by marrying Dodi Fayed, Diana would, as in the case of Jackie Onassis, be able to sustain the privileged lifestyle to which she has become accustomed. As for Dodi marrying the Princess of Wales, she would be the most valuable trophy to bring home to his billionaire father. Di would elevate the Al Fayed family from being just another mega-rich Arab family to being the family access to the corridors of power and influence in the West is appreciated by both oil and jute sellers. After all, who needs a British passport if the future King of England is your step-grandson?

Prince Charles is said to have expressed his best wishes over the Dodi-Diana union. This is hardly surprising, for the Prince of Wales is familiar with both Islam and his family's close association with the faith over the centuries. Genealogists would tell you that there is a lot of *halal* blood flowing in the veins of the Royal Family. Queen Victoria's obsession with her 'munshi', Abdul Karim, reached such a point that King Edward VII ordered all papers related to the Queen's advisor to be burned.

Even at this moment, the *gala* wedding of Prince of Wales may well be looking back with regret at the opportunities Islam could have offered him. Assuming that he wanted to be married to the mother of his children and to ensure that he shared the rest of his life with Camilla Parker Bowles, the best option for him would have been polygamy, which Islam allows. After all, in the Islamic world, having several wives is considered an asset not a hindrance to kinship.

Finally, the question is: who is next? For they say good things happen in threes. Who knows, Ray Weldon, that scourge of Islam over *The Satanic Verses*, could be the next to succumb to the charms of Muslim men.

The writer is editor of Q-News, the Muslim magazine.



Why university is a journey too far

by David Walker

The A-level results out on Thursday signal the beginning of Britain's great teenage transhumance. Education's rite of passage is what it literally is – the passage of parental cars and vans up and down the motorways; a welter of trunks, new crockery, duvet covers, and instructions on how to use a washing machine.

But for what? No official report, at least one written during the past 35 years, says that studying away from home is sufficiently beneficial to justify its huge cost to the nation. No closet eugenicist says that translating hundreds of Londoners to Sheffield to have sex there for three years (not with Sheffielders, since only 5 per cent of Sheffield University's BA students come from the city) does anything for the gene pool.

Asian restaurateurs and provincial suppliers of little white pills love it. But what public purposes are served by this annual migration of Middle England's youth? You may say that the migration bonds north and south. Within six weeks, it is true that thousands of young southerners will be migrating north. Some will join that huge student colony – 60,000 strong – in Manchester. Others will contribute towards the millions in uncovenanted regional aid that higher education pays Yorkshire and Humberside. And the student train moves the other way, too, claiming the extra grants and loans available to London students, swelling the capital's disproportionate share of university revenues.

Should 18-year-olds pitch out of the parental nest and go and live by themselves? That's a private matter. What is public is whether the state should subsidise the expensive business of self-discovery for a fraction of the 18-year-old cohort. Once upon a time (the early Sixties, in fact) a government committee said campuses and cloisters were places where you acquired manners and social confidence, even (whisper it, with the student revolution about to begin) a moral sense.

That answer was couched in terms of a university system to which only the offspring of the middle classes and a smattering of able working-class youth were admitted.

Modern mass universities have given up the ghost of moral betterment. Though meagre, government student support pays enough for late-teens to leave home to live, in their first year, in communal blocks, then get big city flats while enjoying the 'student experience'. This consists of a mixture of Es, beer, sex, lectures, and minimal intellectual engagement, plus, for those with less well-off parents, part-time jobs. Of course

some students do voluntary work in poor neighbourhoods; of course not all students are drug-ingesting slobs. The question is not whether the experience is edifying, but whether the taxpayer should support it as well as the cost of teaching. Officialdom, including the Dearing Committee, has ducked the issue.

Some colleges, especially the former polytechnics, over had national catchments. Take the University of East London (formerly the North East London Polytechnic), four out of every five of whose students come from Greater London or the Home Counties area. Of them, three-quarters come from the neighbourhood. Iford Asian families are very keen to see their daughter return home every night.

No closet eugenicist says that translating Londoners to Sheffield to have sex there for three years does a thing for the gene pool

Are nine-to-five students going to do any worse? (This is snuggly insinuated by the campus universities.) A Leeds University professor tells me: 'Students who live at home don't integrate; it limits the range of experience they are subjected to; they are not as rounded as students.' So, I ask, does that make them worse physicists or historians?

The evidence from Glasgow says: of course not. Some 71 per cent of the University of Glasgow's undergraduates are Scots and nearly half of them come from greater Glasgow. Its academic averages do not seem to suffer as a result. Ditto Strathclyde, where the home-town component is even greater.

'They have much greater opportunities for sharing discourse, creating a kind of culture' – this from the registrar of the University of York, with ducks quacking in the background on his architect-designed campus. That kind of vague ambition was certainly in the minds of the founders of the Shakespearean seven (Sussex, Warwick, Keele etc) – believing that life among Basil Spence buildings would somehow make better scholars. It is a load of nonsense – as generations of urbane graduates from the urban academic factories have proved. Indeed, say the great 'civic' universities of the

North and Midlands, a reason for 18-year-olds to leave home is that they get the chance to experience the grit – sorry, the varied urban scene – in Liverpool and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Parents, send your children to Bradford for (official spokesperson) 'a vibrant, multicultural city'.

Manchester University (one of the several institutions that make up a multi-million-pound higher education industry in the North-west) deliberately pitches its club and music scene to southerners. Some 2,700 of Manchester's undergrads come from the South-east and there is said to be a 'huge retention' of them on graduation, especially in the local leisure industry. That is fine, but should it be the object of public policy to invigorate the indie music scene in Ardwick?

A couple of years ago the Higher Education Funding Council measured grants and fees per head of population and found that London ended up with more than twice the amount of university money flowing to the South-west (few universities) or even the West Midlands. Another region that does conspicuously well is Yorkshire and Humberside – all those callow southerners who find themselves contemplating the flow of the Humber on the docks at Hull.

Of course, individuals may benefit by leaving home to study – where would the modern British novel be without that trope? But behind the decision to wave Mum and Dad goodbye lies an unwarranted subsidy. The Government's post-Dearing proposals for student finance are a step in the right direction. Everyone will have to borrow, so focusing available money on the education rather than the lifestyle.

Yes, university graduates are in general more tolerant, more liberal, but surely that has to do with the fact of study, not with the possibility of rubbing shoulders with southerners. Besides, university entrance is still heavily conditioned by social origin. Unfashionable though the word now is, it is class that determines who goes where to study what. Sending the daughters of the well-off of Kent to spend three years in a flat in Headingley mixing with students from a similar background does little to aerate British society. Nor does sending them to the superior boarding-school experience offered, say, at Exeter or Durham.

And if the experience did count: wouldn't the benefit be so much greater for 18-year-olds from Page Moss in Knowlsey, or Bransholme estate in Hull? Break them out of their culture and dead expectations by giving them the chance to live away from home. That really would give the 18-year-old transmigration some point.

Me, marriage! Tell that to the Tamagotchi

I'm completely confused. The family is still at the heart of the British lifestyle according to the Office for National Statistics. What on earth is the twenty-something woman to make of this?

Over the past few years I've naturally assumed I'm going to spend the rest of my life on my own, divorced or gay, not having children, or being a single mother, on bad terms with all my natural relatives. That's what all the surveys show.

But now, according to the latest one from the ONS, if I get married I've got a one in two chance of making it to my silver wedding anniversary.

Obviously that trendsetter herself, Diana, Princess of Wales, has spotted this and has allowed herself to be caught canoodling with a new beau. But I've been quite happy destined to live a dysfunctional life for ever. I knew that feminism hadn't delivered it all, but I still thought I'd escape the moans of, 'Are we nearly there yet?' three minutes after setting off on family holidays and endless squabbles over which sibling is the favourite.

In fact the only outturning I've ever done was caring for a Tamagotchi which wasn't a great success, to put it mildly. I decided to swap notes with my friend Angela.

'How long did your Tamagotchi stay alive for?' I asked.

'What?' she replied. 'Your cyberpet. Apparently the longest recorded time is 110 days. Do you think if I say half that I'll come across as caring but not obsessive?'

'How long did you keep it alive in reality?' she said.

'A day and a half. I went to the pub and forgot about it. But no one is ever going to trust me in charge of a real child if I can't even care for an LED screen efficiently – thank goodness.'

'Yeah, well I wouldn't worry,' she yawned. 'In China, according to the *People's Daily*, cyberpets aren't good for students' patriotic education and lots of schools have banned them.'

'Oh well, that's great.' I said. 'Under New Labour they're probably gearing up to banning single people as unpatriotic. We'll all be forced to look after Tamagotchis to see how suitable we are for family life. How can I get out of this?'

'Well there's always a kit called Boyfriend in a Box,' said Angela. 'A Texas company will send you two photos of some man or other that you can pretend is your boyfriend. They construct this whole character for him – his likes, dislikes, career. It's the perfect bluff.'



Glenda Cooper

It sounded like the answer. No Man United, on 12 pints of lager nights, no fights over the remote control, no emotional torture.

'Who would you like?' asked Angela.

'Dodi Fayed.' 'Who you would like sensibly? I've got either Self-Made Stan or Millionaire Max.'

'Oh well, they sound much more realistic than Dodi Fayed, don't they?' I said. 'Let's face it, my mother will only fall for this one if I say I'm going out with Dipsomaniac David or Commitment Phobic Chris. What are they like?'

'Stan is a retired importer/exporter who drives a silver Cadillac and wears boxer shorts.'

'What's Millionaire Max like?'

'He's a divorced former Priceco graduate who takes in \$1.2m a year developing resort property.'

'Info on underwear?'

'None.'

'None????'

'No information.'

'No information on underwear and he's divorced. What does that say to you? I'll stick with Dipsomaniac David.'

But already a small thought was growing in my mind. 'Did you say that you only see these men in photographs?'

'Yes.'

'So people never see you together in real life but he sounds like the perfect man and as a result people stop speculating as to whom you might be going out with?'

The penny dropped. 'It's no good, Angela, she's done it again. Diana has got there first. I'm doomed to be stuck with the Tamagotchi.'



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Will the real Kurt Vonnegut please log on?

Within the links and connections of the electronic world, myths propagate and flourish at a speed that cannot be attested to by prudence or fact. Consider: on May 31 Mary Schmich, a writer for *The Chicago Tribune*, wrote a column for the paper that began:

'Ladies and gentlemen of the class of 1997: Wear sunscreen.' Soon after it was published, in a completely unrelated event, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, delivered a commencement (awards) speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

A few days later, by a mysterious hand or in ways that have yet to be traced, the column became attributed to the novelist Kurt Vonnegut as a commencement speech he gave to the college. It was bounced

around the world by e-mail, even *Wired* magazine extracted a passage, and it was celebrated wherever it went as the author's poignant guide to living.

Even Vonnegut's wife, photographer Jill Krementz, who did not doubt her husband was the author of the address, received it and sent it on to his children as an example of dad's cleverness and wisdom.

'Do one thing every day that scares you,' the text continued.

'Sing.'

'Don't be reckless with people's hearts. Don't put up with people who are reckless with yours.'

'Floss.'

One of the last to know, Vonnegut learnt of 'his' work's existence when his agent told him a magazine wanted to reprint the speech he gave at MIT. More requests started pouring in until Schmich called to tell all

to the perplexed author of works such as *The Sirens of Titan* and *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

The 74-year-old writer has as little idea as anyone else as to how this cyberhoax – or cyber mistake – was born and the mystery has done nothing to soothe his long-held antipathy toward computers and the Internet as a part of the future not worth trusting.

'How can I tell if I'm being kidded or not, or lied to,' he told the *New York Times*. 'I don't know what the point is except how gullible people are on the Internet.'

Schmich, 43, who once read Vonnegut's novel *Carrie* at university, denies imitating the author's bitter-sweet style. Putting Vonnegut's name on her writing, she wrote in a later column, 'would be like sticking a Calvin Klein label on a pair of K-Mart jeans.'

The experience has left her feel-

ing much as Vonnegut does – especially as she has been criticised for damaging the integrity of the Internet. 'I thought it was just one of the curiosities of cyberspace,' she said. 'But having been roped into it in a very personal way, it seems less merely interesting and more dangerous.'

And that would seem to be that – except that feverish imaginations are still constructing conspiracy theories to support a belief that Vonnegut is the author of the address despite his denials. 'This is part of a promotion for an upcoming Vonnegut book,' one electronic news group writer wrote. 'One of the characters in the book is a newspaper columnist and guess what her name is: Mary Schmich.'

No word yet from Kofi Annan.

Edward Helmore

obituaries / gazette

Mohammed Al-Jawahri

The Iraqi poet Mohammed Al-Jawahri was regarded by many Arab literary critics and historians as the last of the classic Arab poets. He was among the small handful of larger-than-life figures who have kept classical Arabic – the language of the Muslim holy book, the Koran, and no longer used in everyday language – alive in poetry.

His poetry travelled beyond the borders of Iraq and was recited and studied in academic centres all the way from North Africa to the Gulf. Seven volumes of his works were published in Middle Eastern capitals, including Baghdad, between 1973 and 1980 alone.

His verse was constructed in classic stereometric fashion, remaining faithful in style to the structure of the poetry of Shu'ar al-Jahiliyah, the ancient poets of South Arabia who predated the prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam. Like that of his ancestors, Al-Jawahri's poetry served as a reference point for historians of the region, being far more comprehensive than the chronicles of the official history records.

His own life seemed to mirror the modern history of Iraq, which since its creation in 1922 has five times plunged into a fresh cycle of destruction, violence and war whenever it was about to complete a chapter of success. The timing and place of Al-Jawahri's death confirmed this impression. He died the day after his 98th birthday, in exile in Damascus. The Baath regime of Saddam Hussein had stripped him of his Iraqi nationality in 1955, and he had sought refuge with Saddam's arch-enemy, the Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad.

He was often criticised for his glorification of violence, as in the poem he published after his brother's violent death during the political upheaval of 1948, but this was simply another reflection of the brutality of life in Iraq, for he had witnessed a chain of violent political events.

He was born in the holy city of Al-Najaf in southern Iraq in 1899, to a respected Shia clergy family. The name Al-Jawahri ("the jewellery-smith") was thought to have been given to his great grandfather by the Shia Fuqaha's (the learned clergy), who were impressed by the 18th-century scholar's literature textbook *Jawahir-al-kalam* ("The Jewels of Words").

His father, Mahdi Ibn Al-Hussein, who recited poetry to friends but never published it, wanted Mohammed to become a respected clergyman like himself. But the young poet, aware of his talent, steered himself away from theology and excelled in *balagha* – the art of rhetoric composition – philology and logic. His first anthology, a collection of poems published in local journals, appeared in 1921, the second in 1923. A year later his first respected study, *Halabat al-Adab* ("The Arts Arena"), came out, and in 1928, having lived in Baghdad for a year, he published *Bayan Ash'our Walatifa* – "Between Consciousness and Solitude".

Enchanted by Al-Jawahri's poetry after an encounter in one of the salons that flourished in Baghdad under the monarchy, the Minister of Education introduced him to the court of King Faisal. Iraq's first monarch, Faisal had in 1916 helped to create the legend of Lawrence of Arabia by appointing the British military intelligence officer T.E. Lawrence to lead his Arabian desert warriors in a guerrilla war against the Turks that ended with the capture of Damascus and changed the course of the First World War. When the French deposed Faisal in Damascus, the British created Iraq for him.

Touched by the young poet's eloquent words and romantic lyrics, King Faisal, a cultured and articulate man himself, in late 1927 appointed Al-Jawahri as the court's official poet. The irony was double-edged: Faisal was following the centuries-old traditions of Arab kings, whose court poet sang their praise and satirised their enemies; while Al-Jawahri – who once wrote "I shall remain tall while tyrants' lives are short" – fell into a 2,000-year-old trap for poets, having their talent enslaved to a tyrant or an ideological movement. It was later to become a source of inspiration and trouble as he rose and fell, went into exile and returned with the change of regimes.

His love affair with the court eventually cooled off, and in 1933 Al-Jawahri lost his school-teaching job following a clash with top civil servants at the ministry who accused him of giving too much praise to Shia Iran in his verse.

Two years later his best-



Al-Jawahri (his name meant 'the jewellery-smith'): 'I shall remain tall while tyrants' lives are short'

known anthology, *Dwan Al-Jawahri*, was published in Baghdad. He gained respect as a poet and journalist, mainly on the arts pages of newspapers and journals, and as a columnist who was critical of the monarchy and the British presence in Iraq. He founded his own daily paper, *Arsal al-A'm* ("Public Opinion").

He was close to and supported the Iraqi Communists – the largest populist party in Iraq until the second Baathist takeover in 1968 – and in 1948 he published the Arabic language's most famous pro-Communist poem, "The Red Army".

In the next few years, his fame travelled beyond Iraq's borders, when he left Baghdad for Cairo in 1952 after clashes

with the government. In 1956 he moved to Syria where he briefly edited the Syrian journal *Al-Jundi* – "The Warrior".

He had been elected several times to the Iraqi parliament in the 1940s – which ended with the slaughter of the royal family in 1958 in the bloody coup led by General Abdel Karim Qasim, supported by the Communists and by Al-Jawahri, who returned to Iraq to become the chairman of the writers' union.

Following the internal power struggle between the Communists and the Nationalists – backed by the Egyptian pan-Arabist leader Colonel Nasser – Al-Jawahri went into exile in Prague in 1961. He only returned with the 1968 Baathist coup, but the Baath-Communist

alliance was short-lived, and Al-Jawahri went into a third exile in Syria.

Contrary to the belief in some Arab literary circles, he was not a democrat. He supported successive military coups starting with 1941 Rashid Ali, that was ended by the swift British march on Baghdad, and most of the coups that followed.

His ambition was to complete a 10-volume epic study of Arab poets, *Al-Jahharah* ("The Crowd"), but the death of his wife in 1992 and his too early death, combined with poor health and damage to his eyes, and constantly moving from one country to another, prevented him from finishing more than three of the volumes. He had returned to Iraq

briefly in 1978 and left a year later after Saddam Hussein consolidated his grip on power in an internal Stalinist-style bloody purge. He moved between several Middle Eastern and European capitals. Ironically he finally settled in Syria where he was given special treatment by the Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad, a dictator whose brutality against his own people is second only to that of Saddam Hussein.

Adeel Darwish

Mohammed Mahdi Ibn Al-Hussein Ibn Ali Ibn Sahib Al-Jawahri, poet, writer and Arabic scholar; born Al-Najaf, Iraq 26 July 1899; married (three sons, three daughters, and one son deceased); died Damascus 27 July 1997.

Professor Kenneth Haley

Kenneth Haley's was a decided, if understated, academic success story which deserves celebration.

At the most obvious level it was an apparently effortless progress: a scholarship from Huddersfield College to Balliol, crowned by a first in History, followed by Sheffield University where he was successively assistant lecturer, lecturer, senior lecturer and Professor of Modern History. This brought in its inevitable train the headship of department and the deanship of the Faculty of Arts, but its academic ballast was a sustained succession of books on 17th-century English, Dutch, and Anglo-Dutch history, which have survived changes of fashion. The accolade came in retirement with a Fellowship of the British Academy.

Yet no progress is effortless, and Haley's was accompanied by relentless ill-health: psoriatic arthritis, latterly complicated

by diabetes and increasing blindness. It was also accompanied by relentless change in British universities. Haley taught at Sheffield from 1947 to 1952. When he arrived Sheffield, like most such places, was more red-brick than civic and it was certainly not "old", whatever that means. Its History Department was as small and as idiosyncratic as any. It was the stuff of which novels are made. This was the climate which formed him.

In those last days lecturers still wore gowns and addressed female undergraduates as "Miss Smith" rather than Tracy, and male ones as "Smith" rather than Darren. Professors were weighty people, usually men, with a clear place in the hierarchy – a role which in some ways they have regained on the eve of Dearing. Kenneth Haley was in his early forties when he was appointed to his chair, on the eve of Robbins.

The qualities which contributed to his scholarly standing and his determined battle for health also contributed to the quiet transformation of the Sheffield History Department. There was steady but not precipitate enlargement, and Haley could be justifiably proud of the appointments made between 1964 and 1982.

Inevitably many of those appointed in his time were Young Turks, sceptical of hierarchy and impatient of steadiness. Consequently there were tensions, but they were healthy and educative ones, again because of Haley's formative qualities. For this professor of an older school (however young at the time of his appointment) was also a liberal and a Methodist with a genuine concern for consensus (however much it seemed to some junior colleagues that it was often a consensus of nine), and an equal concern for his students (he was an early believer

in compulsory field courses at state if faded homes), and a palpable integrity (which did not prevent him from being a prudent operator).

To have been a junior colleague of his was an experience for which many now approach retirement can feel grateful: the insistence that third-year special subjects should be soundly based on primary sources; the rigorous training in how to construct examination questions, each one scrutinised by unblinking colleagues in plenary session; the constant awareness of the student barrack-room lawyer, a character then quite unknown but now increasingly common; the refusal to cut corners. Kenneth Haley in fact maintained a quality control which was quite as effective as any now fashionable and far harder to circumvent.

Underpinning this were unexpected but crucial things. It is impossible to think of him

without thinking also of his wife, Iris, to whom his debt was immeasurable; or of their strenuous family holidays; or of the Methodist Church, where he took a young people's class which encouraged at least three future Methodist ministers; or of his undeviating commitment to Yorkshire county cricket, with which no academic business ever interfered; or of the Braille which he learnt in good time to combat the onset of blindness; or, for inevitably we return to his scholarly discipline, of the Dutch which he taught himself, and of the nature of his historical interests.

How many of his southern students were initially misled by their expectations of this Yorkshire Methodist's special subject on Charles II? But his books, which include *William of Orange and the English Opposition 1672-1674* (1953), *The First Earl of Shaftesbury* (1968; his magnum opus), *The Dutch in the Seven-*

teenth Century (1972), *An English Diplomat in the Low Countries: Sir William Temple and John De Witt 1655-1672* (1986), show a concentrated, cumulative, sure-footed understanding of a deceptively wide swathe of political, diplomatic, religious, and cultural history in an extraordinarily complex field.

At its heart was a relish for the Netherlands, that most civilised of countries, and it was at Anglo-Dutch colloquia that Kenneth Haley could be seen at his best and most relaxed. His priorities were, after all, the right ones.

Clyde Binfield

Kenneth Harold Dobson Haley, historian; born Southport, Lancashire 19 April 1920. Professor of Modern History 1962-82, Sheffield University (emeritus). Dean of Faculty of Arts 1979-81; FBA 1987; married 1948 Iris Houghton (one son, two daughters); died 2 July 1997.

Jonathan Bodlender



Bodlender: inveterate tourist

Jonathan Bodlender was a gallant world traveller whose laughter and bright visions accompanied many through the roads and hostilities of Europe. He was a guide and adviser in hotels and restaurants and governments, ranging from Great Britain to Bulgaria, Switzerland, Israel, France and the Far East. There was no one in the leisure industry whom he did not know.

He was a Yorkshireman, educated at Bootham School in York, and then attended the London School of Economics.

He joined the firm of Horwath and Horwath UK (later the Horwath Consulting Co) in 1968 as a chartered accountant, and was put in charge of its leisure industry section. There, his energy and enthusiasm helped him establish a loyal team.

The infrastructure of the hotel trade came to fascinate him, and he soon travelled all over the world presenting feasibility studies on the setting-up of hotels and leisure centres. In recent years, this resulted in successful projects in the

Seychelles, Syria and Jordan. He also organised a World Conference on Tourism in Israel, and himself became an inveterate tourist.

He lived life to the full. As a student, he had (in 1957) founded and chaired London University's Wine and Food Society. He loved good food. He collected Chinese snuffboxes and unusual friends from all parts of the world. He was endowed with a never-ending curiosity; he possessed a sense of humour and an enjoyment of gossip which never verged to-

wards the malicious; he cared too much for people in enter that he was not a gossip.

His health led to his semi-retirement from Horwath after he had served as chairman of the company from 1989 to 1993. It did not suit his temperament. A year later, he returned as chairman of Horwath UK, where he remained until his death. He was also chairman of Horwath Consulting Europe, and special adviser on investment to the World Tourism Organisation. From 1979 to 1983, he was a member of the English Tourist

Board. He also had a home in the South of France.

Bodlender's publications include *Profile of Government in Tourism* (with J.J.G. Davies, 1984), *Tourism: a portrait* (1988) and *Guide Lines to Hotel and Leisure Project Financing* (with T. Ward and M. Dillon, 1991).

Albert H. Friedlander

Jonathan Bodlender, accountant and tourism adviser; born 29 November 1938; CBE 1996; married 1979 Catherine Schmitt; died London 30 July 1997.

Anthony Clark

Anthony Clark contributed much to archaeological science, but will be remembered particularly as a pioneer in the use of geophysical prospecting methods which are now indispensable to much practical field archaeology.

By means of fieldwork and example he demonstrated the archaeological potential of a series of novel instrumental techniques which now form the basis of a small industry. He did this with a directness and rigour which he would have been pleased to see as part of a worthy British tradition of underfunded scientific ingenuity, but also brought to his work the methods and awareness of a skilled field archaeologist.

Clark was conscious of following in the tradition of such notable earlier archaeological fieldworkers as L.D. Margary and O.G.S. Crawford, with their emphasis on the continuity and significance of each detail of the landscape, and he wished to extend their methods by introducing new sources of evidence. His archaeological career began when he was a precocious schoolboy excavator, and continued when he managed to turn even the experience of National Service to relevant effect.

He trained in aerial photographic interpretation with the RAF at Nucham Park in Oxfordshire, and heard during this improbably military interlude of the early experiments with resistivity surveying which Professor Richard Atkinson used to detect ploughed-out barrow ditches from 1946 onwards at Dorchester-on-Thames nearby. This encounter made a lasting impression and in 1956 Clark, together with a colleague also employed at the instrumentation laboratory of the Distillers' Company, developed the Martin Clark resistivity meter. This was a lightweight device specifically intended for archaeological work, the prototype of which later found a place in the Science Museum.

Clark devoted much effort in subsequent years to experiments investigating the complex climatic and seasonal influences on the resistivity response from a variety of archaeological features, and this work later formed the basis of the thesis for which he was awarded a PhD by Southampton University in 1980.

In 1967 Tony Clark was appointed to be the country's first full-time specialist in archaeological geophysics at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, which formed part of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments at the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. Archaeological prospecting requires intensive ground coverage to detect the minute physical traces of past human activity, and so remains a laborious pursuit. Clark found this to be particularly the case in his single-handed early days, but he at length built up a team which continues as part of English Heritage today.

From the late 1960s, magnetometer surveying, which had previously been investigated at the Oxford Archaeology Laboratory and elsewhere, became a more practical option following the development of a new and more portable magnetometer in response to police requirements for ground searching equipment. Clark was responsible for a series of classic demonstrations of the value of this device, which he applied with characteristic directness. He walked across Hampshire watching a flickering dial, and thereby added significantly to the archaeological record along the line of the proposed M3.

By similar methods, combined with an interpretative boldness which few of his colleagues would have cared to match, he identified the camp sites of the original builders behind the ramparts of an unfinished Surrey hillfort, and with an elegant economy of method he sorted a number of Hampshire hillforts in the course of a day into occupied settlements and uninhabited refuges.

Clark also did much to promote the acceptance of magnetic susceptibility surveying, another technique which emerged from the Oxford Laboratory as a means of predict-

ing the suitability of sites for magnetometer surveying. Clark showed that his method could be used to locate areas of ancient habitation by means of extensive sampling, and so established a procedure which has been widely used in recent years for large-scale archaeological evaluations of road routes and gravel sites.

His initial tests of the method included a study of an Iron Age cropmark site which showed, by comparison with results from the complementary geochemical technique of phosphate analysis, that areas of human occupation could be distinguished from prehistoric cattle enclosures purely from surface measurements in an open field. He also similarly identified a possible Iron Age site at the centre of Coneybury Henge, thus providing a hint as to the nature of ancient events at this vanished neighbour of Stonehenge.

Another complementary area of work at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory was the development of magnetic dating, which is a technique based on measurements of variations in the earth's magnetic field direction, as preserved in samples of burnt clay and other materials. This method was revived in the 1970s by researchers at Newcastle University, but required large numbers of calibration samples from sites dated by other methods before it could be widely applied. A practitioner of the method must therefore be prepared to rush immediately to retrieve samples from any site where suitable material is excavated. Clark bore this for many years and contributed substantially to a body of calibration data published with colleagues in 1988.

Tony Clark was not entirely in his natural element in the Civil Service, and viewed the prospect of joining the new English Heritage with some suspicion. He therefore took the opportunity for retirement rather than transferring with the Ancient Monuments Laboratory to the new organisation, and became an independent consultant from 1986.

This led to a highly productive period in which he continued his dating work, until with some relief he was able to hand this particular torch to the Museum of London, to which he presented his equipment, and which opened the Clark Laboratory named in his honour in 1996. He also participated in numerous increasingly ambitious geophysical projects for which a demand emerged following the introduction of the novel



Clark: economy of method

principle of developer funding to British archaeology in the early 1990s.

Clark's book *Seeing Beneath the Soil* (1990) was, like its author, difficult to accommodate within a narrow academic category. It shares some of the characteristics of an archaeological memoir of fieldwork handbooks as well those of a scientific textbook, and provides a careful record of much significant early work. He was dismayed by the scornful review it received from a bemused theoretician, but was consoled by healthy sales.

The book has gone into a second edition and attracted sufficient interest in Japan for the publishers to commission a recently completed translation.

Alister Bartlett

Anthony John Clark, archaeologist; born Guildford, Surrey 22 March 1930; married 1966 Una Miles (died 1996; two sons); died Farnham, Surrey 3 June 1997.

Herbert de Souza ("Betinho"), sociologist; died Rio de Janeiro 9 August, aged 61. His 1993-94 campaign for Brazil's poor –

"Citizens' Action Against Misery" – won him a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. A haemophiliac, he died of Aids.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS On 18 July, at Bedford Hospital, to Rosamund (née Greenstreet) and James, a daughter, Georgina Mary.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, or to the Editor, The Independent, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, or to the Editor, The Independent, 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Charges are £50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays Sir Bernard Ashley, honorary life president, Laura Ashley, 71; Sir Richard Barrett, former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 69; Mr Don Boyd, film director, 49; Sir Geoffrey Case, Chairman, Royal Shakespeare Company, 65; Miss Armitage, 73; Mr James Galloway, Lord-Lieutenant, County Borough of Londonderry, 70; Professor John Fincham, geneticist, 71; Professor Bob Hepple, Master, Clare College, Cambridge, 63; Professor Alan Hoddinott, composer, 68; Professor Derry Jeffares, literary scholar, 77; Sir Aaron King, molecular biologist, 71; Mr Raymond Lepard, conductor, 70; Mr Martin Lin-

ton ME 53; Mr David Logan, ambassador to Turkey, 54; Miss Anna Massey, actress, 60; Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, former First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, 64; Miss Jean Parker, actress, 85; Sir Michael Quinlan, Director, Ditchley Foundation, 67; Dame Angela Rumbold, former MP, 65; Mr Thomas Taffie, racehorse trainer, 64; The Right Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 61; Lord Varley, former government minister, 65; Mr Thomas Vassary, pianist and conductor, 64.

Anniversaries Richard Mead, physician, 1673; Joseph Nollekens, sculptor,

1737; Joseph Schuster, composer, 1748; Jean-Victor-Marie Moreau, general, 1763; John Christian Schell, marine painter, 1778; Charlotte Mary Yonge, novelist, 1823; Marie-Françoise Sadi Carnot, engineer and statesman, 1837; Christian Eijkman, physician, 1858; Helen Broderick, actress and comedienne, 1891; Hugh MacDiarmid (Christopher Murray Grieve), poet, 1892; Enid Mary Blyden, children's author, 1897; Denise, John I. King of Portugal, 1433; Janos Corvinus Hunyadi, Hungarian leader, 1456; Hans Memling, painter, 1495; Johan Tetzl, Dominican monk and seller of indulgences, 1519; Ottavio Piccolomini, Duke of Amalfi, military command-

er, 1656; Arthur Elphinstone, sixth Baron Balmorino, executed 1746; Henry James Fyfe, poet, 1813; Sir Samuel Avenarius, general, 1822; Marshall Hall, physiologist, 1857; James Wilson, founder of the *Economist*, 1860; Richard Monckton Milnes, first Baron Houghton, MP and poet, 1885; John Henry Newman, Cardinal, 1891; Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist, 1919; Joaquin Sorolla y Basteria, painter, 1923; Edith Newbold Jones Wharton, novelist, 1937; Paul Jackson Pollock, abstract painter, 1956. On this day: Sir Martin Froisher entered the bay now named after him, 1576; the Battle of Passero Cape was fought when Admiral Byng attacked the Spanish

fleet, 1718; Penang was ceded to Britain by the Rajah of Kedah, 1786; during severe earthquakes in the Azores, the village of Sao Miguel sank, 1810; the bridge at Walton-on-Thames collapsed, 1859; the "moons" of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, were discovered by Professor Asaph Hall, 1877; after the collapse of a burning bridge at Chatsworth, Illinois, 81 passengers in a train were killed, 1887; the Atlantic Charter was signed by Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt, 1941; the new Waterloo Bridge, London, was opened to traffic, 1942; King Talal of Jordan was deposed because of mental illness, 1952; King Hussein succeeded to the throne of

Jordan, 1952; the French colony of Chad became independent, 1960; in Bangladesh, monsoon floods resulted in the deaths of over 2,000 people, 1974; a burst dam on the Manchou river, Gujarat, India, resulted in the deaths of over 5,000 people, 1979. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander of Candia, St Antracina or Antracina, St Blaise, St Clare of Assisi, St Eulachius, St Gerard of Galina, St Gery or Gauricus, St Leila, St Susanna and St Tiburtius.

Appointments Mr Christopher Meyer, to be ambassador to the United States of America.

Changing of the Guard The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery moved the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am, to the Household Cavalry, at Buckingham Palace, 11.05am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

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business & city

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DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

FINANCIAL JOURNAL
OF THE YEAR

Red faces as Revenue assesses computer bungle

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The Inland Revenue is battling to salvage a multi-million pound project to computerise the new self-assessment tax return form after a series of delays and embarrassing technical problems.

The Revenue has launched a review into the scheme – the Electronic Lodgement Service (ELS) – after admitting last week that 20 per cent of returns

sent through the new computer link were being rejected by the equipment.

Managers have also had to apologise to at least one accountancy practice after mistakenly sending out the wrong batch of security passwords. Brian Handley, project manager, blamed the mistake on a clerical error. "It was very unfortunate. I personally apologise to the person concerned. We're trying to make sure it'll never happen again."

When it launched ELS in April, the Revenue said it expected 500,000 tax returns to be sent electronically by the 31 January closing date for self-assessed forms. The three-year-old project includes EDS, the computer giant responsible for many civil service networks, and defence to telecommunications group Racal.

Yet almost four months after its launch, only 900 tax returns have been submitted, of which almost 200 have been inexplicably rejected, despite being correctly completed. Of the 3,000 firms of accountants and tax assessors, known in the trade as agents, which have applied to join the ELS network, only 160 have made it.

Software companies, which have devised Revenue-approved computer programmes with the form on-screen, blame the Revenue and its partners for the mess. They claim that special software, which scrambles the data before sending it down

a modem, was supplied with built-in errors.

Andrew Bolton, from the Surrey-based Quality Management Software, praised the idea behind the project, but not the execution. "I want it to work, because we've put a lot of time and effort into the project. But there are still problems with the Revenue's software and hardware which have not been corrected. We hope they are going to be sorted out soon."

Mr Handley said the review

would look at every aspect of the system, including the role of EDS and Racal. He said if extra spending was needed it would be through a mixture of sources, though he declined to give details of the contracts with the two companies. The official budget for ELS was £3m for this year, although sources in the computer industry suggested other costs could have been passed across to the bigger self-assessment budget.

The money-saving potential for the Revenue is huge. ELS by-passes local tax offices where staff numbers are being cut. To encourage agents to go online, the Revenue is sending out free modems worth around £50 each.

The Revenue insisted ELS would not suffer the same fate as other high-profile computer projects, such as the Stock Exchange's ill-fated "burns" system. "What we've experienced is obviously not unexpected when you are trying to remove the pa-

per chain and that doesn't happen easily," Mr Handley said. "At the moment a higher number of returns is being rejected than in the longer term. The reasons can generally be described as technical troubles. We've identified... minor problems in our own area."

Despite the delays, the Revenue warned that forms submitted late using the ELS system would incur the same interest penalties as those sent through the post.

Dalgety shores up defences on takeover talk

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Dalgety, the troubled Winalot and Felix petfoods group whose shares have been devastated by two profits warnings in three months, has been preparing a bid defence in anticipation of a hostile takeover attempt.

Richard Clothier, Dalgety's chief executive, has been working closely with Lazard, the group's financial adviser and Cazenove, its broker, on how best to fight any break-up bid which analysts say could value the group at £1bn, the equivalent of 350p a share. The shares closed at 250.5p on Friday, valuing the company at £730m.



Richard Clothier: Talking to financial advisers

News of Dalgety's contingency plans came as the company yesterday denied any knowledge that ING Barings, the investment bank, plans a £900m break-up bid.

The bank is understood to have approached several large food groups such as Nestlé, Associated British Foods and Ralston Purina of the United States, to see if they would be interested in buying all or part of the group.

The deal would see one of the companies make a bid for Dalgety and then sell off the unwanted operations to other food groups. Nestlé and Ralston Purina might be interested in Dalgety's pet food businesses while ABF, Garry Weston's food combine which has a £5bn cash pile, may be keen to snap up the animal feeds and fertilisers interests. It may also be interested in the ingredients division.

Though Dalgety says it is unaware of Barings' plans, the fact that it is already planning to shore up its defences makes it clear that it has been expecting a bid. Several brokers, including UBS, have recently issued circulars placing break-up values of around 350p on the group.

Dalgety shares have been as low as 220p but rose by almost

15 per cent last week. Though turnover in the stock was relatively low there was one buying order from an institution which picked up 2 million shares.

In its defence Dalgety will claim it has been the victim of exceptional circumstances such as the BSE scare and a European ban on the export of pet food. The defence could see Dalgety jettison its food ingredients business, the milling operation and possibly the Pig Improvement Company, a meat group seen as one of Dalgety's best businesses.

Mr Clothier said at the time of the last profits warning that disposals were possible. Though he has said there are "no sacred cows", a decision to sell the pet food business would almost certainly see his departure as he has built his whole strategy on this sector following the group's £470m acquisition of Quaker's European petfoods businesses two years ago.

Dalgety is vulnerable to a bid after a terrible performance in the last year which has seen its shares fall from around 350p to 250.5p. In May it issued a profits warning caused by production problems and the on-going effects of the BSE crisis.

Last month it issued a further warning due to disappointing trading.



Source: Bloomberg

Pitcher poised to step down at United

Chris Godsmark

Sir Desmond Pitcher is this week expected to give way to an interim shareholder and agree to step down by the end of this year from his post as executive chairman of United Utilities.

Directors of the multi-utility group are to hold an emergency board meeting tomorrow to discuss the unprecedented shareholder revolt that began last month when the company ousted Brian Staples, chief executive, after a spectacular boardroom split.

United Utilities yesterday sought to play down speculation of another rift involving Sir Desmond, this time with Sir Peter Middleton, the non-executive director who has been taking private soundings with the group's leading shareholders. The meetings were organised by Dresner Kleinwort Benson, United's broker.

Most institutions have told Sir Peter they wanted to see Sir Desmond leave by the end of the year, although the responses were said to be "less extreme" than reports had suggested.

Sources close to United stressed that the board meeting might not resolve the issue immediately, but admitted that Sir Desmond had little hope of staying as executive chairman until his official retirement date of 2000. One option being canvassed was that he would leave

the company by Christmas, a move which would satisfy most institutions by establishing an orderly succession process.

It would also change the complexion of the review into the group's operations launched last month by Derek Green, who replaced Mr Staples as chief executive. Mr Green, 57, ran United's core utility businesses, North West Water and Norwich and is also due to retire in 2000.

The review, which will be completed by October, will now spend much more time on the succession issue. The company is almost certain to bow to shareholder pressure and downgrade the job of chairman to a non-executive role.

Sir Desmond was given the results of Sir Peter's meetings late last week and was said to be "not at all dismayed" by the criticism. However sources suggested he had begun to accept that he could not stay with the group until 2000. "He's a fighter, but he's also a realist. He'll be in listening mode. These are the views of our owners and they have to be heard," one said.

Another factor working against Sir Desmond is the arrival next month of Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, as a new non-executive.

Sir Richard is understood to be anxious that the Pitcher issue is resolved by the time he joins the board.

IN BRIEF

GEHE nets £56m for MacCarthy

GEHE, the German drugs group that bought Lloyds Chemists earlier this year for £634m, has sold MacCarthy Group, Lloyds' generic pharmaceuticals operation, to a management buyout team for £55.5m. The deal is the last big disposal since the acrimonious Lloyds takeover, which last week saw GEHE sell the Holland & Barrett health food chain to an American group for £100m. The MacCarthy buyout was put together by CIN Ven, the venture capitalists. MacCarthy makes drugs for the NHS and chemists' wholesalers and employs 215 people.

'Dynamic' department stores roar ahead

The renaissance of Britain's department stores continues to gather momentum, according to a report published today by the Verdict Research consultancy. It shows that total department store sales grew by 5 per cent last year to reach £7.6bn. The leading companies improved their sales by 6.6 per cent, well ahead of retail sales growth of 5.3 per cent. The report says social and demographic changes will make department stores one of the most attractive and dynamic retail sectors over the next five years as more affluent over-35-year-olds turn to department stores for better service and well-known brands.

Tigerprint raises £13m for Reed

Reed Elsevier, the media group, has sold Tigerprint, a supplier of greeting cards and other stationery to a management buyout team for £12.5m. The deal was led by Peter Murphy, a former director of Reed International and backed by venture capital group, 3i. Tigerprint is Marks & Spencer's leading supplier of greeting cards, wrapping paper and other stationery products.

Style Holdings to seek AIM listing

Style Holdings, a men's fashion chain, is seeking a listing on the Alternative Investment Market. The company has completed a £4.7m private placing, raising just under £3m for the business, of which £1m will be used to fund expansion. Style has 124 concessions, mostly in branches of Top Man, part of the Burton group. The business made profits of £1.5m on sales of £27m last year.

Siemens asks suppliers to switch to euro

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

More than 14,000 British companies which supply the UK businesses of Siemens, the German electrical giant, are to be asked to switch from the pound to the European single currency in two years.

Siemens UK, which conducts business largely in sterling and had sales last year of £1.5bn, will make presentations and hold seminars with suppliers from October to

explain the change. The shift in Siemens' accounting policy will be implemented across the EU, regardless of whether the British government stays out of European monetary union (EMU).

Planning for EMU began at Siemens in 1995 and is now at an advanced stage. The German board has decided that from 1 October 1999 the group will adopt the currency in all its European operations and draw up its accounts exclusively in euros.

The currency itself is due to start from 1 January 1999, though companies are not obliged to use it until 2002.

Bernad Euler, Siemens' UK finance director, will continue the seminars intermittently until 1999. Suppliers, many of which are small or medium-sized companies, will be given advice on changing their payment systems and dealing with the banks.

Siemens' British businesses, which make everything from traffic control systems to elec-

tricity meters, spent around £1.3bn in the UK on goods and services last year.

Only prices of products which are generally internationally quoted in dollars, such as computer memory chips, are likely to be excluded.

"If they want the business then suppliers will probably be prepared to price things in euros, but we won't discriminate against them if they want to keep using sterling," a spokesman said.

One of the biggest advan-

tages of the single currency for large groups is that it would make it easy to switch suppliers, allowing much clearer price comparisons.

However for the suppliers themselves it could make life harder, given the likelihood of continued sharp swings in sterling's value.

Despite the move to the euro, Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens in the UK, is expected to avoid attacking Labour's detached policy on EMU.

Mr Gehrels was an outspoken critic of the previous government's reluctance to commit itself to closer European integration, warning that it could affect future investment decisions.

However, he has indicated since the election that the currency will be introduced "through the back door" by other European multinationals.

A Siemens spokesman said the accounting change was not a way of the company "trying to blackmail governments".

Dow jitters may be contagious

City Staff

The stock market faces a turbulent opening session this morning after Friday's sharp drop on Wall Street.

The 156.78-point fall in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, took the index down to 8,031.22 and could force the FTSE below the 5,000 barrier.

The Dow's tumble had already knocked 55 points off the blue chip index when London closed on Friday, as financial and pharmaceutical stocks,

which have led Footsie's rally, fell back and second-line stocks picked up the running. The leading 100 index eventually closed at 5,031.3, having slithered within a whisker of 5,000 at one stage.

With only a handful of large companies reporting this week as the holiday season gets into full swing, dealers are expecting markets to be sensitive to currency movements and a host of economic data.

Several industrial groups such as Glywedd, the engineering

conglomerate, BICC the cables group, BOC, the industrial gases company, are all expected to report results affected by the strength of sterling.

Producer prices figures for July, due for release today are expected to show a 0.1 per cent increase on June and a 1.1 per cent increase year on year.

Mortgage costs are likely to rise by 0.4 per cent a month and 5.7 per cent year on year. However, on the high street, prices will be lower as the summer sales get under way. Clothing

and footwear and seasonal food will see the largest decreases.

In June a 5 per cent increase in seasonal food prices, the product of the wet weather, was an important contributor to the overall increase in June.

Retail prices for July, due tomorrow, will show the Budget's impact on petrol duties and the effects of higher mortgage costs. The two factors are expected to take headline inflation to 3.2 per cent year on year with July's figure 0.1 per cent lower than June's.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Change %	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	YTD %	Vol	Open	Close
FTSE 100	5031.30	+132.0	+2.7	5086.80	4956.60	3.28			
FTSE 250	4880.50	+192.1	+3.8	4729.40	4386.20	3.57			
FTSE 350	2415.80	+97.3	+2.9	2432.30	2017.90	3.33			
FTSE SmallCap	2209.78	+21.1	+1.0	2374.20	2178.29	3.24			
FTSE All-Share	2354.83	+62.9	+2.7	2389.07	1989.76	3.33			
New York	8031.22	-162.8	-2.0	8259.31	5032.94	1.59			
Tokyo	10904.46	-199.9	-1.8	10981.07	17303.65	0.807			
Hong Kong	10847.54	+288.3	+1.5	10873.27	12093.17	2.861			
Frankfurt	4384.15	-54.8	-1.2	4438.93	2848.77	1.261			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK Interest rates									
Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK	57.00	59.00	61.00	63.00	65.00	67.00	69.00	71.00	73.00
US	5.25	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25
Japan	0.47	0.50	0.53	0.56	0.59	0.62	0.65	0.68	0.71
Germany	3.15	3.50	3.75	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.25
Bond Yields %									
Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK	5.70	5.90	6.10	6.30	6.50	6.70	6.90	7.10	7.30
US	5.25	5.50	5.75	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.75	7.00	7.25
Japan	0.47	0.50	0.53	0.56	0.59	0.62	0.65	0.68	0.71
Germany	3.15	3.50	3.75	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.25
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index	Top 3	Bottom 3	Change	Top 3	Bottom 3	Change	Top 3	Bottom 3	Change
FTSE 100	5031.30	4880.50	+132.0	5086.80	4956.60	+3.28	5031.30	4880.50	+132.0
FTSE 250	4880.50	4729.40	+192.1	4729.40	4386.20	+3.57	4880.50	4729.40	+192.1
FTSE 350	2415.80	2017.90	+97.3	2432.30	2017.90	+3.33	2415.80	2017.90	+97.3
FTSE SmallCap	2209.78	2178.29	+21.1	2374.20	2178.29	+3.24	2209.78	2178.29	+21.1
FTSE All-Share	2354.83	1989.76	+62.9	2389.07	1989.76	+3.33	2354.83	1989.76	+62.9
New York	8031.22	5032.94	-162.8	8259.31	5032.94	1.59	8031.22	5032.94	-162.8
Tokyo	10904.46	17303.65	-199.9	10981.07	17303.65	0.807	10904.46	17303.65	-199.9
Hong Kong	10847.54	12093.17	+288.3	10873.27	12093.17	2.861	10847.54	12093.17	+288.3
Frankfurt	4384.15	2848.77	-54.8	4438.93	2848.77	1.261	4384.15	2848.77	-54.8

CURRENCIES

£/\$

Month	Rate
M	1.55
A	1.56
M	1.55
J	1.56
J	1.57
A	1.58

£/DM

Month	Rate
M	0.63
A	0.63
M	0.64
J	0.64
J	0.65
A	0.65

Pound vs.

	Close	Week's Chg	Year Ago
£/\$	1.5784	-0.005	1.5496
£/DM	1.5875	-0.002	1.5495
£/¥	232.49	-11.45	237.04
£/₹	182.95	-110.35	155.81
£/₪	101.3	-4.0	84.8

Dollar vs.

	Close	Week's Chg	Year Ago
£/\$	0.6336	+2.27	0.6463
£/DM	0.6399	+1.7	0.6454
£/¥	1.8531	-0.28	1.848
£/₹	115.88	-2.175	108.185
£/₪	106.9	-0.1	86.2

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Week's chg	Year Ago		Close	Week's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent \$	18.50	-0.58	19.87	SPY	107.8	-2.89	105.07
Gold \$	325.55	+1.50	338.70	NDX	112.8	-3.40	108.1
Gold £	206.25	+8.30	250.52	Rate Ratios	7.00%	-	5.75



DAVID OWEN

'Normally when the amount of money is growing more rapidly than the number of transactions within the economy, the risk is that inflation rises. However, everything is not equal'

Unravelling the mysteries of money supply

The opposing forces of buoyant domestic demand and a strong exchange rate have caused forecasters to polarise, between those (myself included) expecting a sharp slowdown in activity in 1998. A sharp slowdown in growth in 1998 is a real possibility even if sterling fell significantly in the months ahead. It is not just monetary policy that operates with long and variable lags. Given the lags involved, the rise in sterling to date should be sufficient to lead to much weaker growth next year, particularly with windfalls fading from view and if Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, maintains tight control of public spending.

How, though, can the slow-growth camp reconcile an economic slowdown with the current strength of the money supply? Recent experience has suggested that the factors determining monetary growth can be as, if not more, important for trends in the wider economy, as how quickly the money supply is growing overall.

Latest data again confirmed this. The broad measure of money supply M4 (notes in circulation and bank and building society deposits) grew by 11.5 per cent in the year to the second quarter, far in excess of nominal GDP growth of around 6 per cent. Everything being equal, this would not be consistent with 2.5 per cent inflation, or even 3.5 per cent inflation. Normally when the amount of money is growing more rapidly than the number of transactions within the economy, the risk is that inflation rises. However, everything is not equal, as the chart shows. Alongside M4, we have drawn nominal GDP and a measure of the money supply that excludes what are called by statisticians "Other Financial Institutions" (OFIs). These include pension funds, life assurance companies, leasing companies, investment trusts and unit trusts. Excluding

these financial institutions, the money supply is growing at a more modest 7.5 per cent, a figure less out of line with overall growth in the economy.

Moreover, this is no aberration, as the chart confirms. Pension funds, life assurance companies, leasing companies, investment trusts and unit trusts have been playing a key role in the acceleration in the money supply that started in late 1994. Part of the explanation lies with the merger and acquisition boom that occurred during 1995 and 1996, in sectors such as utilities, financial services and pharmaceuticals. Having repaired balance sheets after the last recession, the corporate sector went on a borrowing spree to finance mergers and acquisitions. The money created ended up with institutions.

Why though have pension funds and life assurance companies been prepared to hold on to their cash? Ahead of the election, one could argue that they were happy to build up cash because of the prospect of a change of government. There was also concern about a possible equity market correction, originating in the US. Not only that but banks actively bid for their deposits, yet again confirming the importance of OFIs as a source of finance for the banking system.

A high degree of pension fund liquidity may also be a product of higher equity and bond prices. In an environment of rallying equity and bond markets, institutions need to have higher cash balances to keep the proportion of their assets held in liquid form the same.

On top of the kick-start to M4 from merger and acquisition activity, further financial market restructuring in the form of the introduction of the gilt repo market in January 1996 gave banks an alternative way to attract wholesale deposits relatively easily and cheaply from OFIs. It is fair to say that the gilt repo market has had a larger impact on

the money supply than the authorities were envisaging.

But is it fair to completely ignore what is happening to the wholesale deposits of pension funds et al when forecasting growth and inflation? The argument for doing so is that such institutions do not spend their money balances on the high street. Neither are institutions big buyers of physical capital (at least not directly – the exception being leasing companies). They may have exposure to the commercial property market, but have little direct influence on the more important residential housing market. Not surprisingly, their decision to raise cash has had little impact on inflation.

The introduction of the gilt repo market may have given the banks an alternative source for raising finance. However, the impact could be very different depending on what the money is created for. Household borrowing to finance equity withdrawal from the housing market would have a more direct impact on the high street and hence inflation, than an investment trust borrowing in an attempt to profit from a rising equity market.

Whatever the driving forces, the acceleration in the money supply owes much to a rise in institutional liquidity, which can also be seen from institutional investment data and CAPs figures. If and when institutions spend their cash it is likely to be asset prices that rise or, if they invest overseas, the exchange rate that falls.

In the near term, this is bullish for financial markets, rather than bearish for inflation. Witness the way the FTSE 100 index breached 5,000 last week, propelled upwards by the help of high institutional cash balances. While this would have an indirect effect on domestic inflation, the lags involved are likely to prove very long. Most individuals are unaware of the value of their pension fund.

Certainly, the strength of the money supply should not stand in the way of a sharp slowdown in growth in 1998, given the rise in the exchange rate and windfalls fading from view.

It would be different if household borrowing was picking up sharply. Consumer credit has, but it is only a small proportion of overall household borrowing. Moreover, some of the pick-up in consumer credit may

be to do with the pre-spending of windfalls. Everything being equal, a sharp slowdown in growth next year should be associated with weaker monetary growth.

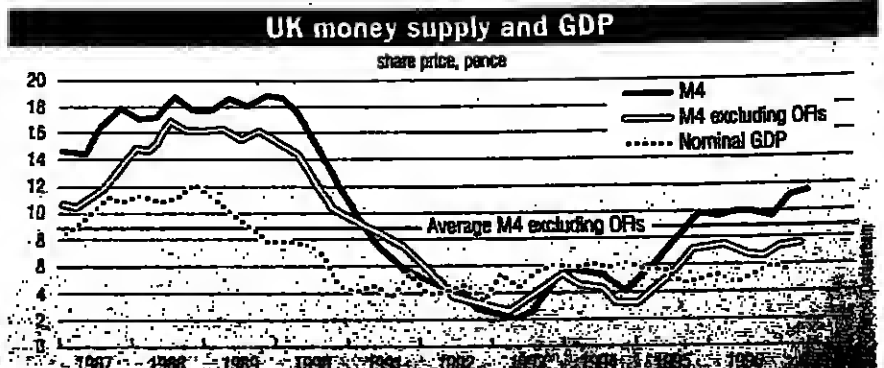
However, that need not be the case. The sort of slowdown that we are envisaging, with real GDP growth of between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent in 1998 would be consistent with rising business bankruptcies and more distress borrowing.

Individuals worried about their job prospects could decide to hold more precautionary savings, boosting retail deposits. Perhaps more importantly, the change to pension fund taxation announced in the Budget has made institutions fiscally indifferent between the form of cash distribution that they receive. In particular, they no longer have a preference because of the tax system to receive a dividend over a share buy-back. Since the Budget a growing number of companies have already announced share buy-backs. In a relatively low-growth environment, we expect Britain to follow the US lead with companies substituting debt for equity to enhance earnings per share and benefit from multiple expansion. Interest cover is far higher in the UK than the US and above its 10-year average.

Just like 1995, when GDP also decelerated, the cash created would be passed over to the institutions, who would then have the asset allocation problem of what to do with an increase in liquidity. The link between the money supply and inflation could remain as tenuous as it is today.

We would be more concerned if the money supply continued growing strongly beyond 1998. Even then it took several years of the money supply consistently growing faster than nominal GDP in the 1980s for the economy to overheat.

David Owen is UK economist and a director of Dresner Kleinwort Benson.



Tesco back at the top 10 years on

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Tesco tops the list of Britain's largest retailers, just as the supermarket giant did 10 years ago, according to a new survey. The 1997 Retail Rankings, published today by retail consultancy Corporate Intelligence, judge UK retailers by their domestic sales and the figures show that Tesco's UK retail sales of £11.6bn in 1996/97 put it ahead of Sainsbury for the first time since 1986/87.

In that year, Tesco edged ahead of a rapidly growing Sainsbury thanks to the acquisition of the Hillards group. Since last year, Tesco has extended its lead with 1996/97 UK sales of £13bn against Sainsbury's estimated figure of £11.76bn.

The Top 20 is dominated by supermarket groups with the big four grocers – Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda – taking the top spots followed by Marks & Spencer and Boots. The highest climber is another supermarket group, Bradford-

based William Morrison, which has shot up from number 30 to 11. Retailers that have lost ground include Storehouse, Thorn and Somerfield.

The rankings show that the largest retailers have become increasingly dominant over the

past decade. In 1986 the top 10 stores groups accounted for 26 per cent of total UK retail sales. Last year that figure had risen to 36 per cent. "It shows the big boys are getting bigger as consolidation in many retail sectors takes place," says Robert Clarke of Corporate Intelligence.

In terms of shop numbers the rankings show that Boots tops the table with 2,323 UK stores followed by Burton (2,118 including concessions) and Kingfisher (2,012).

Comparisons with 1987 shows the dramatic reduction in the portfolio of Sears, the former retail powerhouse which has fallen on hard times. In 1987 it had 3,682 shops, more than half as many again as its nearest rival. By last year that figure had shrunk to 1,887.

Other changes include Galaher, part of American Brands, which had over 2,000 outlets 10 years ago but has since sold off a raft of names, including Forbys newspapers and Dolland & Aitchison opticians.

The other big change is Next, which had 1,860 stores a decade ago compared with 304 last year. In 1987, when Next was involved in a headlong dash for growth under George Davies, its sprawling portfolio included Zales, the jeweller, Salisbury luggage shops and Alceos chemists, all acquired as part of Combined English Stores.

In the Retail Rankings' list of fastest growing stores groups, measured by sales growth, Sun-glass Hut, the US import, tops the list with 114 per cent sales increase between 1995 and 1996.

Watchdog investigates Telewest cables delay

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

OfTel, the telephone watchdog, has launched an investigation into plans by Telewest Communications, the UK's second-largest cable group, to delay the completion of its network for two years to cut costs.

OfTel is understood to be concerned that the delays, which will halve Telewest's £500m annual investment budget, would be followed by similar cutbacks from other cable operators seeking to save money. Cable & Wireless Communications, the merged cable giant including Mercury, Nynex CableComms and Bell Cable-

media, is also thought to be planning to reduce investment in its UK network.

From next year Telewest has proposed slashing the number of additional homes passed by its cables each month from 40,000 to 5,000. The cutbacks, announced last week, include the loss of 1,400 jobs and the slimming down of Telewest's Working headquarters and regional structure.

The plans would involve delaying completion of some of its regional networks from 2001 to 2003, while the group would concentrate more on larger population centres. It is already further ahead with building its network, with just under 70

per cent constructed so far, compared with around 60 per cent for most other operators.

OfTel officials, led by Dou Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, are debating whether to extend the agreed timetable. Known in the industry as "milestones", the investigation also includes the Independent Television Commission and Department of Trade and Industry. However, in the early 1990s the regulator rebuked the industry for failing to invest quickly enough.

OfTel has been told the spending cuts are the only way Telewest can channel limited resources into encouraging more homes to take up the service.

Rank 1996 (1987)	Sales
1. Tesco (1)	£11.6bn
2. Sainsbury (2)	£11.2bn
3. Safeway (5)	£6.1bn
4. Asda (7)	£6.0bn
5. M&S (3)	£5.9bn
6. Boots (6)	£4.1bn
7. Kingfisher (8)	£4.1bn
8. Kwik Save (19)	£3.3bn
9. Somerfield (4)	£3.2bn
10. John Lewis (9)	£2.5bn

Fastest sales growth	% change sales 1995 - 1996
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Foothold +113.4	
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Uno +86.4	
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Calsonic Car	£240	£20	An Office Desk	£60	£2
Pioneer DEH100 Car CD	£240	£20	Dishwasher	£200	£20
Calsonic Fishing Tackle	£180	£10	100 Computer Games	£50	£22
Photographic Equipment	£600	£30	Japan X25 Car	£16,000	£7,000
Computer Design System	£4,000	£200	Hi-tech Mobile Phone	£180	£20
Racing Bike	£100	£10	Phone	£300	£40
Calsonic Scanner	£70	£5	Air Conditioning System	£2,000	£5
NEC Office Phone System	£300	£2	Luxury Orthopaedic Bed	£900	£7
Case of Wine	£20	£5	Large Couch	£350	£50
SIL Carriers	£1,000	£10	Framed Oil Painting	£200	£2
Lawyer	£600	£20	Designer Classic Cuckoo	£400	£30
Two Cardiac Drills	£200	£40	Zenith Washing Machine	£300	£25
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news

For sale: remnants of a royal marriage



Jojo Moyes inspects the contents of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's Paris home, to be auctioned in New York next month

On the mahogany desk sits an album containing wedding pictures, a couple of framed photographs and a box in which to store documents. Only one item gives a clue to its significance: a brass plaque announcing: "On this table King Edward VIII signed the instrument of abdication 10.30am on December 10th 1936".

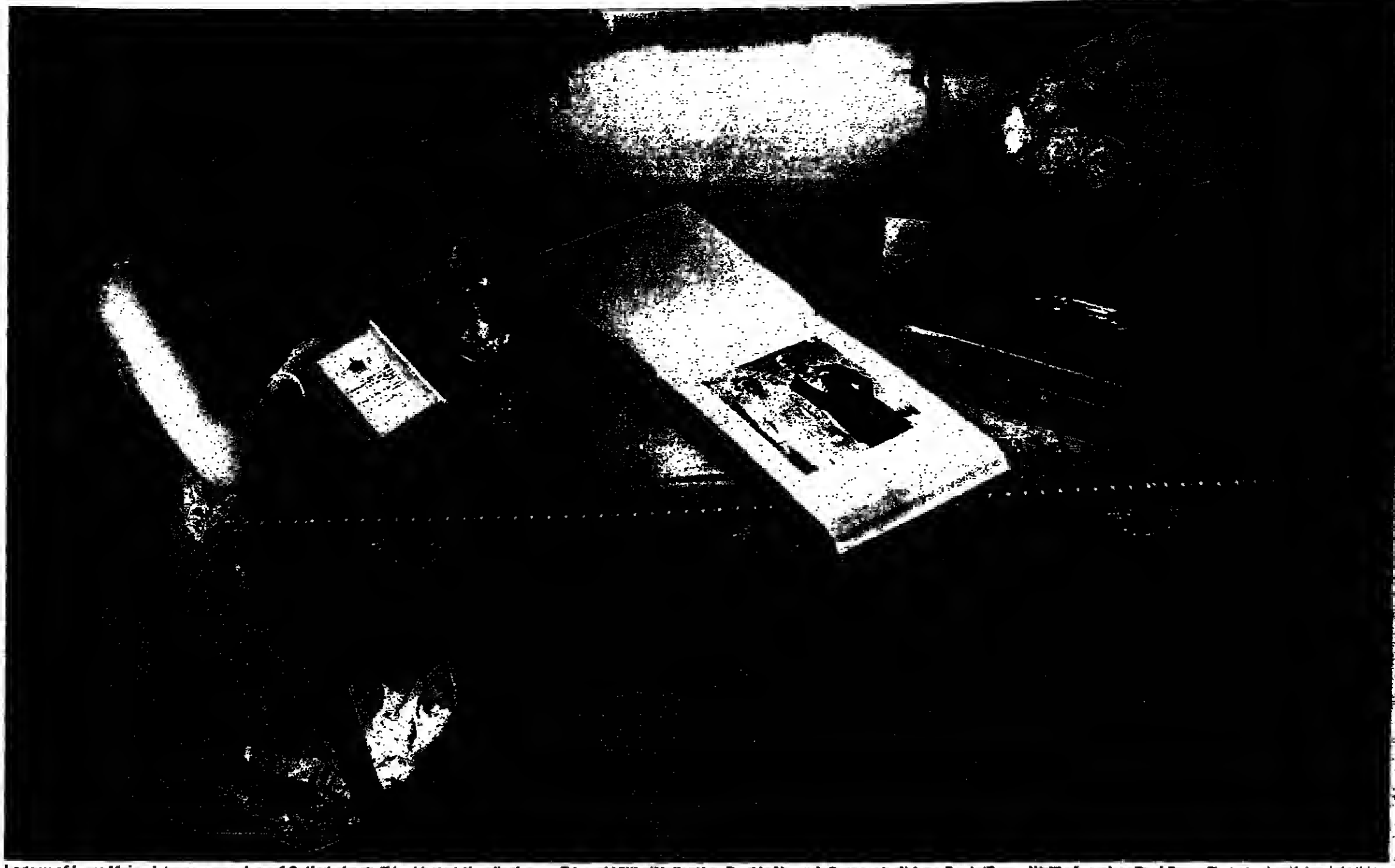
While the eyes of the world are firmly focused on one blossoming royal romance, an intriguing view of another, equally controversial, is on display.

The desk is one of the highlights of an exhibition of contents from the Paris home of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, to be sold by Sotheby's New York next month. The exhibition, which will be on view in London until Friday, documents the life of Edward VIII and American divorcee Wallis Simpson, for whom he gave up the throne. The auction of more than 40,000 pieces, was described by Sotheby's specialist Joseph Friedman as "the greatest sale of royal possessions we can remember, and certainly for hundreds of years".

There are photographs, letters, clothes, silverware, paintings, ceramics, clocks, coins and medals, books, private papers, and trinkets collected by the couple from childhood to their deaths. The collection is owned by Mohamed al-Fayed, most recently in the news because of another divorcee's relationship with a member of the royal family - his son Dodi's romance with the Princess of Wales.

Mr Fayed acquired the collection after the death of the Duchess of Windsor in 1986, and it has since been restored and exhibited at the Windsor residence in Paris.

In comments made before the recent press furore over his son, Mr Fayed said of his decision to sell: "It has been a very hard decision to dispose of the things I love. However I have a young and growing family and



Legacy of love: Main picture, a member of Sotheby's staff looking at the display on Edward VIII's 'Abdication Desk'. Above left, a portrait inscribed: 'To my Wallis from her David'

Photographs: Karpesh Lathiga

... I now wish to make more use of the Windsor residence."

Highlights of the London preview, which runs until Friday, include the ceremonial sword used in the Duke of Windsor's investiture as Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle in 1911 and the couple's wedding album. Personal keepsakes include a private diary of the then Prince of Wales's tour to Australia,

the George III mahogany "Abdication Desk". Shortly after he signed his abdication upon it, Edward broadcast the famous speech in which he said he had "found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love".

But a constitutional storm was

The Duke and Duchess married on 3 June 1937. A wedding album compiled by renowned photographer Cecil Beaton - a distant relative of Mrs Simpson's - forms part of the collection. The day was referred to by Mrs Simpson afterwards as "a supremely happy moment. All I had been through, all the hurts I had suffered, were forgotten". The collection even features a boxed piece of their wedding cake.

The exhibition also has a portrait of Mrs Simpson taken by Beaton shortly afterwards. Beaton's diaries praise her "noble brow and high cheekbones, rugged mouth and excessively bright humorous eyes".

From earlier days a portrait of the young Prince Edward with his great grandmother Queen Victoria is signed in by her: "Gangan and Little David 1896". A Book of Common Prayer from his other grandmother, Queen Alexandra, is inscribed: "For my darling little

David (Edward) [sic] on his 7th birthday when he went to Church for the first time from his loving old Granny".

One photograph commemorates Wallis's presentation at court. A letter written by her at the time reveals that she had borrowed the whole outfit and wore imitation jewels - "imitations but effective". She would not be wearing imitations for

long. Sotheby's sold her astonishing jewellery collection in 1987, and none are in this sale. But the collection - although not the London exhibition of it - does contain the Duke and Duchess's clothes.

The Duke popularized Fair Isle sweaters, flat tweed caps and invented the Windsor knot, which he considered the most elegant finish to a necktie. "To-

gether they were the most fashionable couple of the 20th century," said Kerry Taylor, Sotheby's London director of costumes and textiles.

When Mr Fayed bought the contents of the Windsors' home for £3m, he outbid several military museums, and pledged that he would strive to keep the collection together. "Britain is my second home. I feel I have

a duty to keep together a collection that otherwise would have been dispersed forever," he said at the time. His decision to sell prompts fears that much will be lost to Britain.

All net proceeds of the sale are to go to the Altered International Charitable Foundation, and will contribute to causes including medical research into childhood diseases.



The Windsors' Paris home, bought by Al-Fayed in 1986

New Zealand and colonies in the Atlantic and Pacific in 1920 Mr Friedman said: "We tried to focus it on the Duke's career as Prince of Wales and as King."

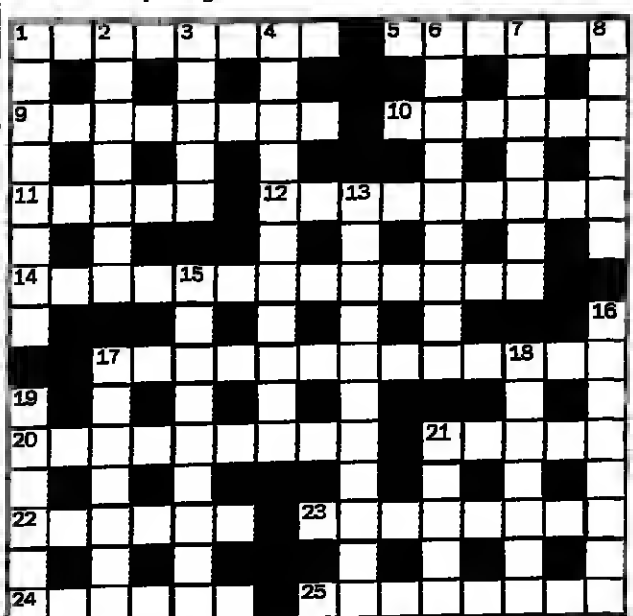
Two joined portraits of Edward VIII date from the period when his affair with Mrs Simpson had begun to cause rumbles of discontent. Early in 1936, Ernest Simpson was said to want the "unsatisfactory sit-

uation" between himself, his wife and the King brought to an end. He met with the King and apparently an arrangement was made, whereby Mr Simpson would end his marriage if the King promised to remain faithful to Wallis. The engraved initials WE on the frame illustrate the way the couple subsequently referred to themselves.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3374 Monday 11 August

By Parlia



ACROSS

- 1 Fellow running riot isn't spotted (8)
- 5 Retiring manner associated with holy woman (6)
- 9 A nuisance getting in to examine hanging (8)
- 10 Not very old bearings want welding together (6)
- 11 Pollute part of the delta in time (5)

- 12 Is without direction and can't wait to be revolutionary (9)
- 14 It was clearly built for exhibition purposes (7,6)
- 17 Crucial smash I produce to win game (7,6)
- 20 Made money but applied to get out at finish (3,4,2)
- 21 Conceited youth with the Italian student (5)

- 22 Be quick to punish head who goes off (6)
- 23 Officer's project occupying a key worker (8)
- 24 Score tenor worked on at the end of the day (6)
- 25 Expression of contempt for the sensational (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 They are fed up down on the farm (8)
- 2 Expand sufficiently without a doubt (7)
- 3 He wrote music catalogue, we're told (5)
- 4 Unusual card, it's late Victorian (6-5)
- 6 Go too far in respect of royal individual (8)
- 7 Hurtful look? (4,5)
- 8 Island militia have success with one (6)
- 13 He's in the market for a job (11)
- 15 Will check out break in before noon (9)
- 16 Nasty to ladies who are lonely (8)
- 17 One points partner out to artist (7)
- 18 Fixed batting position (2,5)
- 19 Result of increased effort (6)
- 21 Prize money is generous (5)

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